



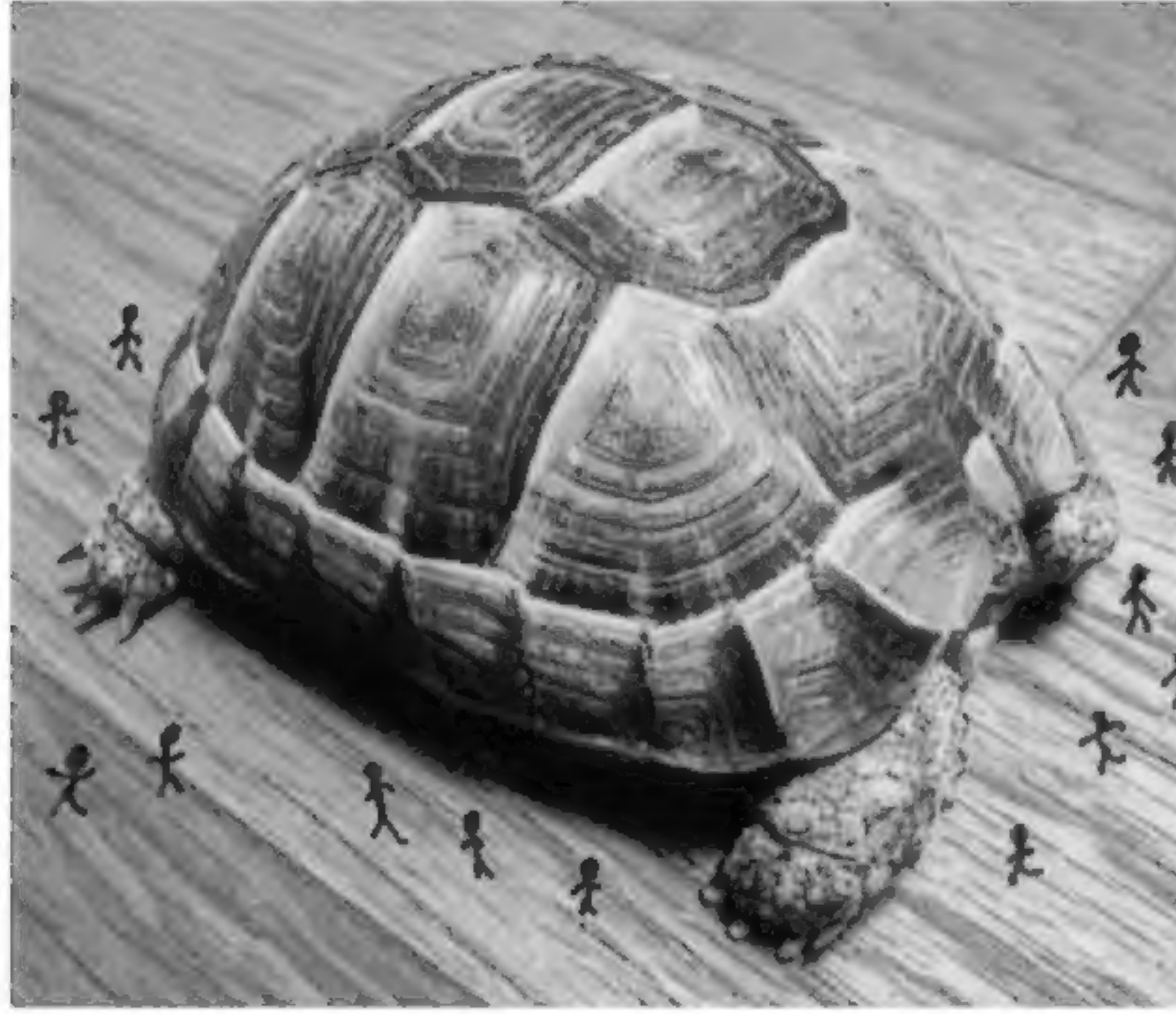
Hikaru no Go

16

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story by **Yumi Hotta** Art by **Takeshi Obata**
Supervised by **Yukari Umezawa (5 Dan)**

volume



Takeshi Obata

This is Char Aznable, a Greek tortoise. He can move swiftly, but when he gets excited he blows snot bubbles.

—Takeshi Obata

It all began when Yumi Hotta played a pick-up game of go with her father-in-law. As she was learning how to play, Ms. Hotta thought it might be fun to create a story around the traditional board game. More confident in her storytelling abilities than her drawing skills, she submitted the beginnings of **Hikaru no Go** to **Weekly Shonen Jump's** Story King Award. The Story King Award is an award that picks the best story, manga, character design and youth (under 15) manga submissions every year in Japan. As fate would have it, Ms. Hotta's story (originally named, "**Kokonotsu no Hoshi**"), was a runner-up in the "Story" category of the Story King Award. Many years earlier, Takeshi Obata was a runner-up for the Tezuka Award, another Japanese manga contest sponsored by **Weekly Shonen Jump** and **Monthly Shonen Jump**. An editor assigned to Mr. Obata's artwork came upon Ms. Hotta's story and paired the two for a full-fledged manga about go. The rest is modern go history.

HIKARU NO GO VOL. 16
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY BY YUMI HOTTA
ART BY TAKESHI OBATA
Supervised by YUKARI UMEZAWA (5 Dan)

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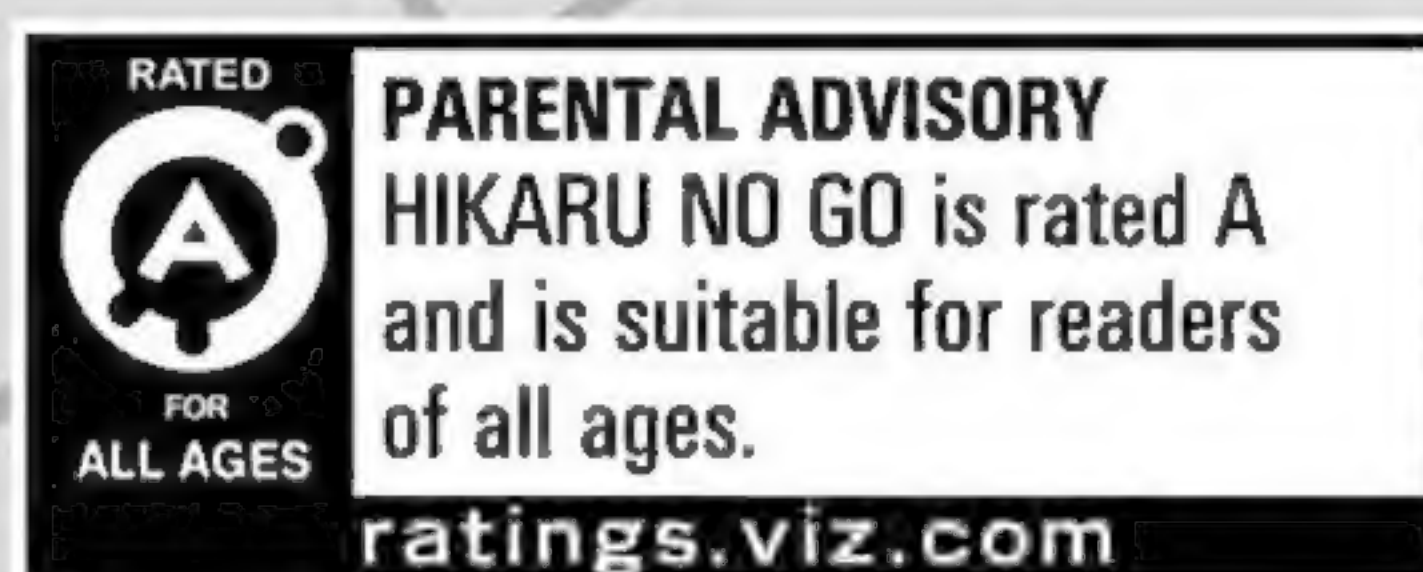
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Hikaru no Go



STORY BY
YUMI HOTTA

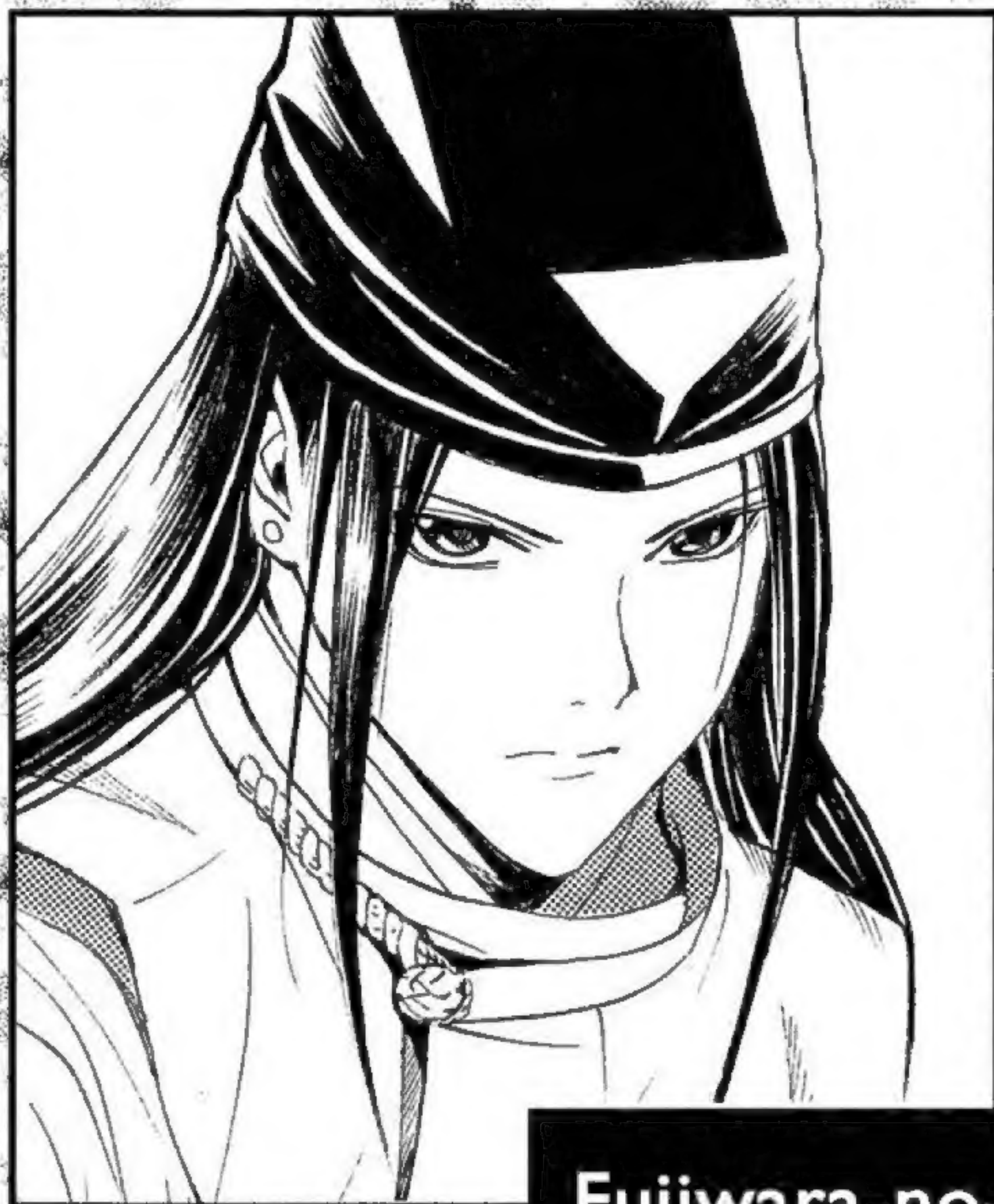
ART BY
TAKESHI OBATA

Supervised by
YUKARI UMEZAWA
(5 Dan)

16

CHINESE GO ASSOCIATION

Hikaru Shindo



Fujiwara-no-Sai



Kuwabara Hon'inbo



Akira Toya



Mr. Amano

● I n t r o d u c t i o n s ●
C h a r a c t e r s



Akari Fujisaki



Kosuke Ochi



Shinichiro Isumi



Mr. Kawai



Yoshitaka Waya



Kaneko



Yuki Mitani

Story Thus Far

Hikaru Shindo discovers an old go board one day up in his grandfather's attic. The moment Hikaru touches the board, the spirit of Fujiwara-no-Sai, a genius go player from Japan's Heian Era, enters his consciousness. Sai's love of go inspires Hikaru, as does a meeting with the child prodigy Akira Toya—son of go master Toya Meijin.

Worried about vanishing, Sai persistently pesters Hikaru to let him play. Hikaru does not take Sai's pleas seriously. When Hikaru goes to a go seminar to play teaching games, he allows Sai to play an intoxicated Ogata Judan. Sai wins. However, soon after returning home Sai abruptly disappears.

Hikaru refuses to accept that Sai is gone and sets out in search of him. Not finding him at the Go Association, Hikaru sets off to Innoshima, the birthplace of Shusaku, Sai's previous host. After a fruitless search Hikaru finds himself back at the Go Association in a room packed with historical archives. Looking at Shusaku's game records, Hikaru gains a renewed appreciation for Sai's genius and resolves never to play go again. When Hikaru fails to show up for his matches, his rivals start wondering what's going on. Meanwhile, Isumi, who struggled at last year's pro test, heads for some goodwill games in China.

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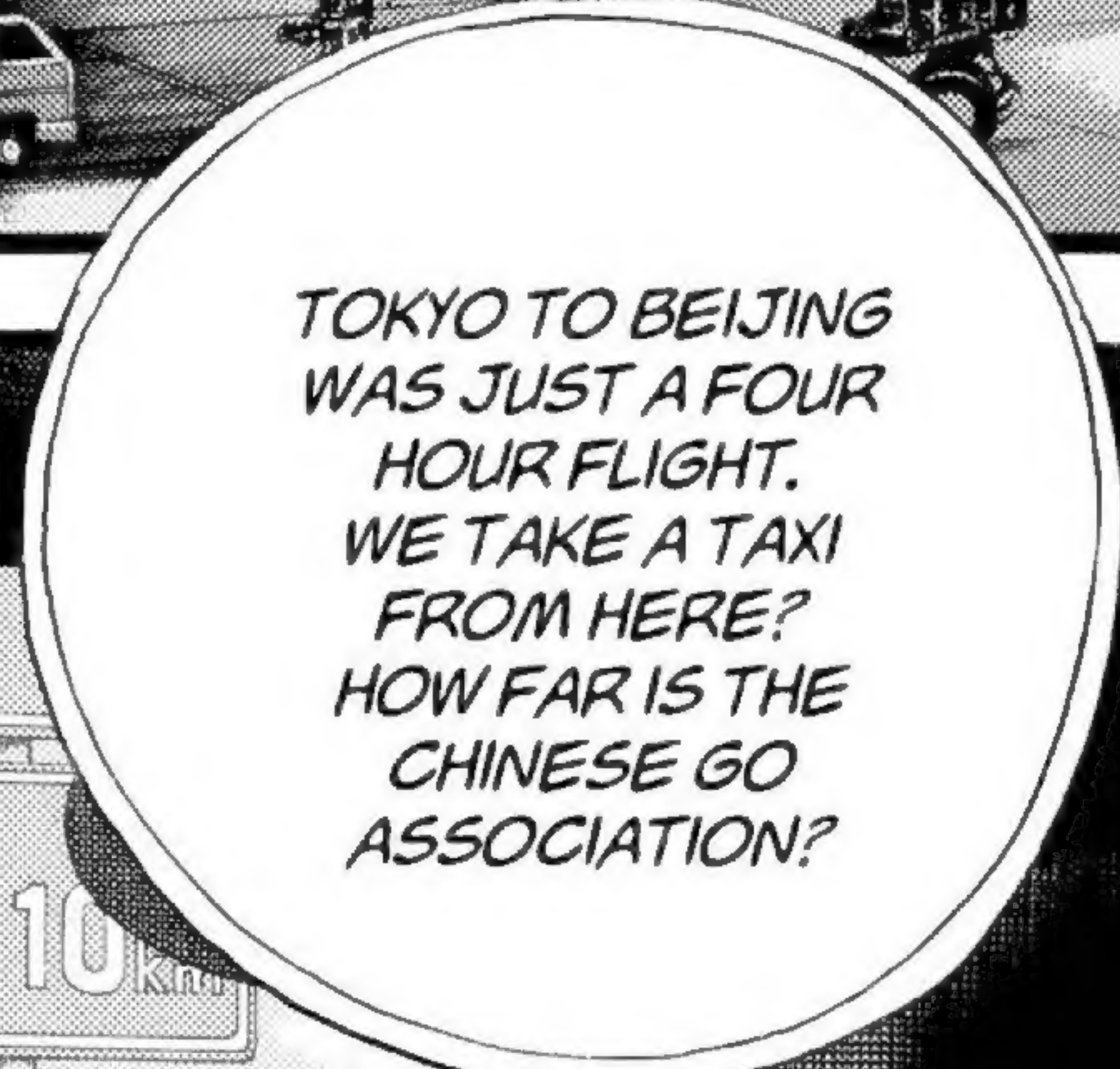
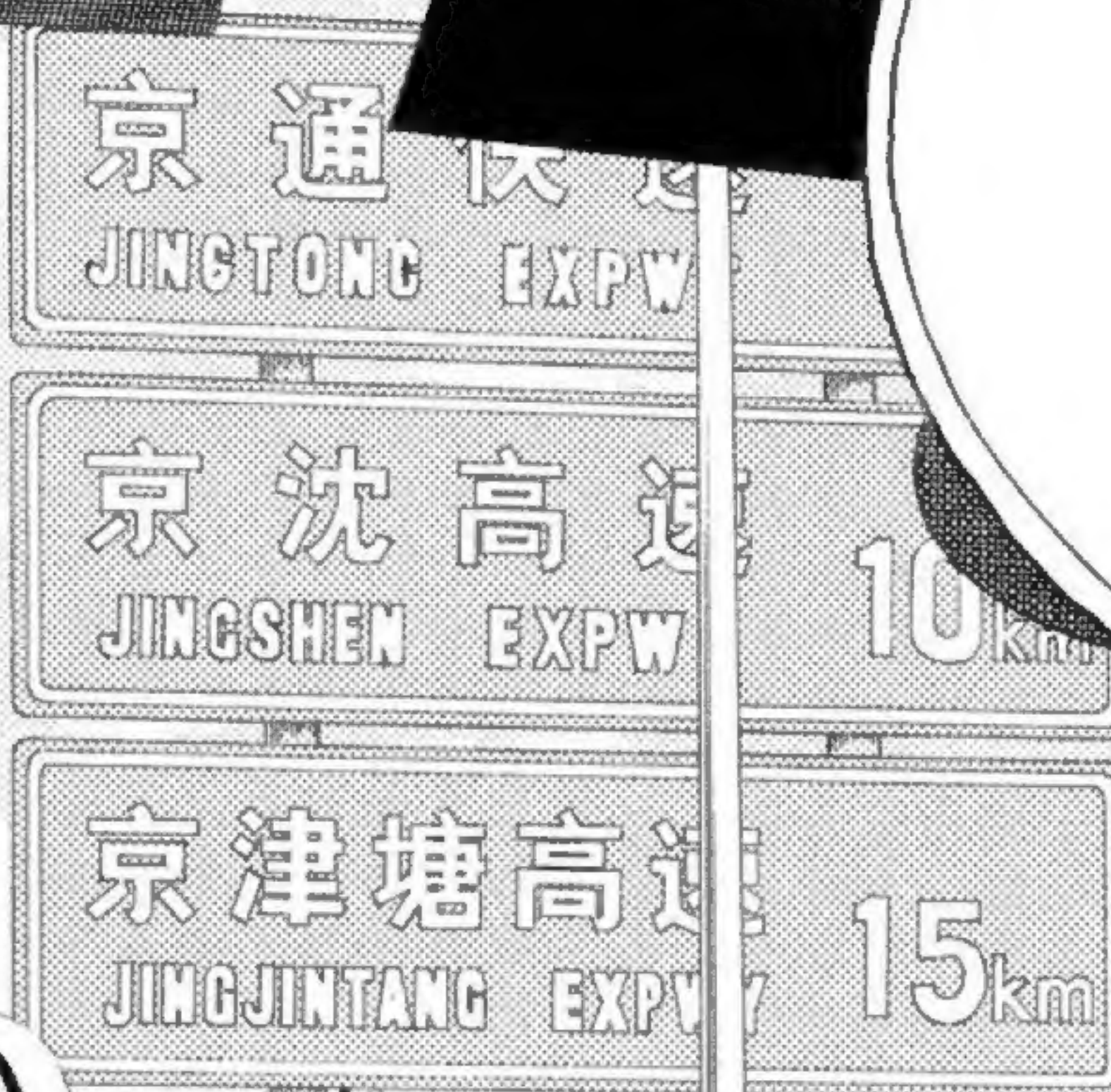
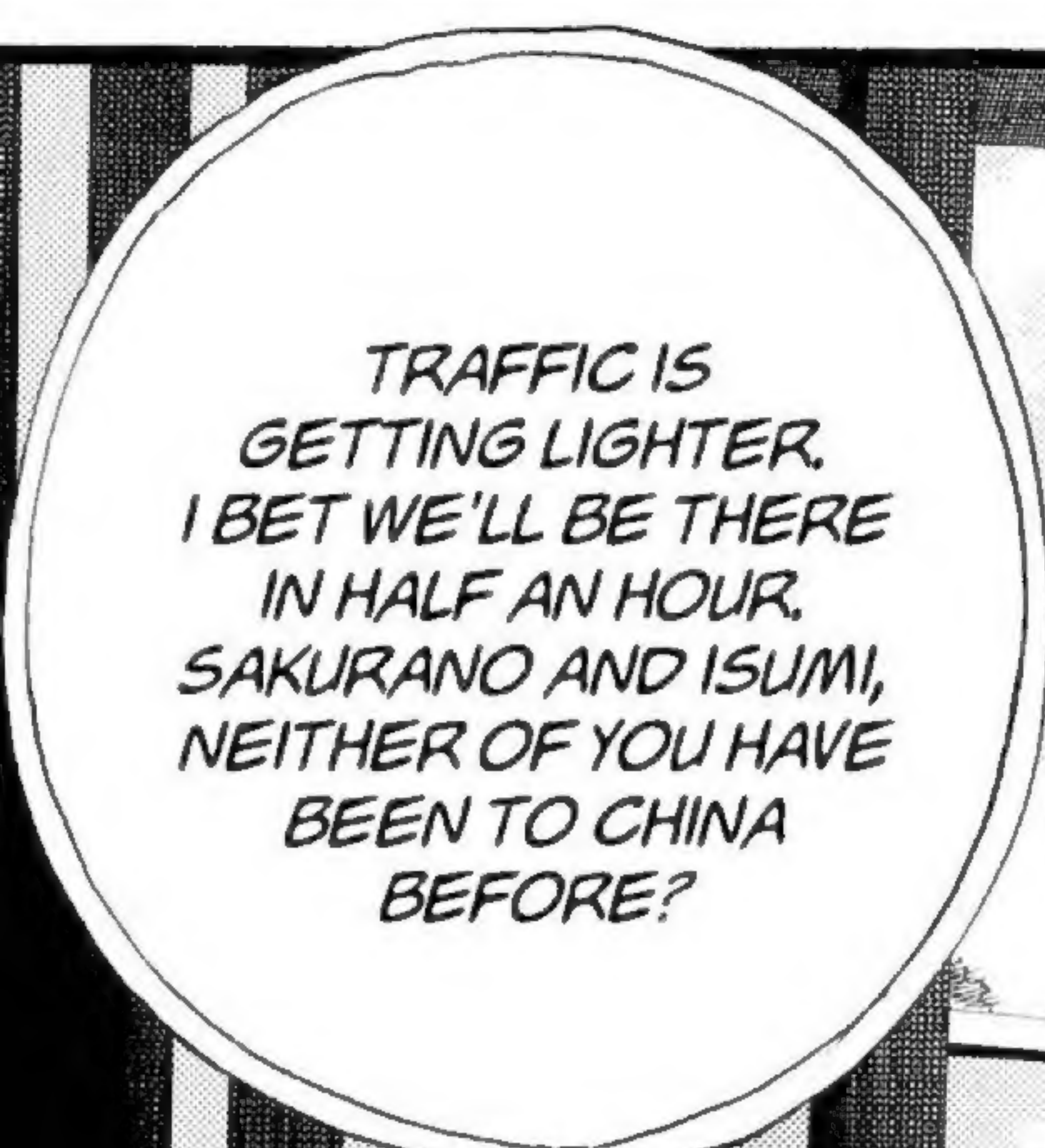
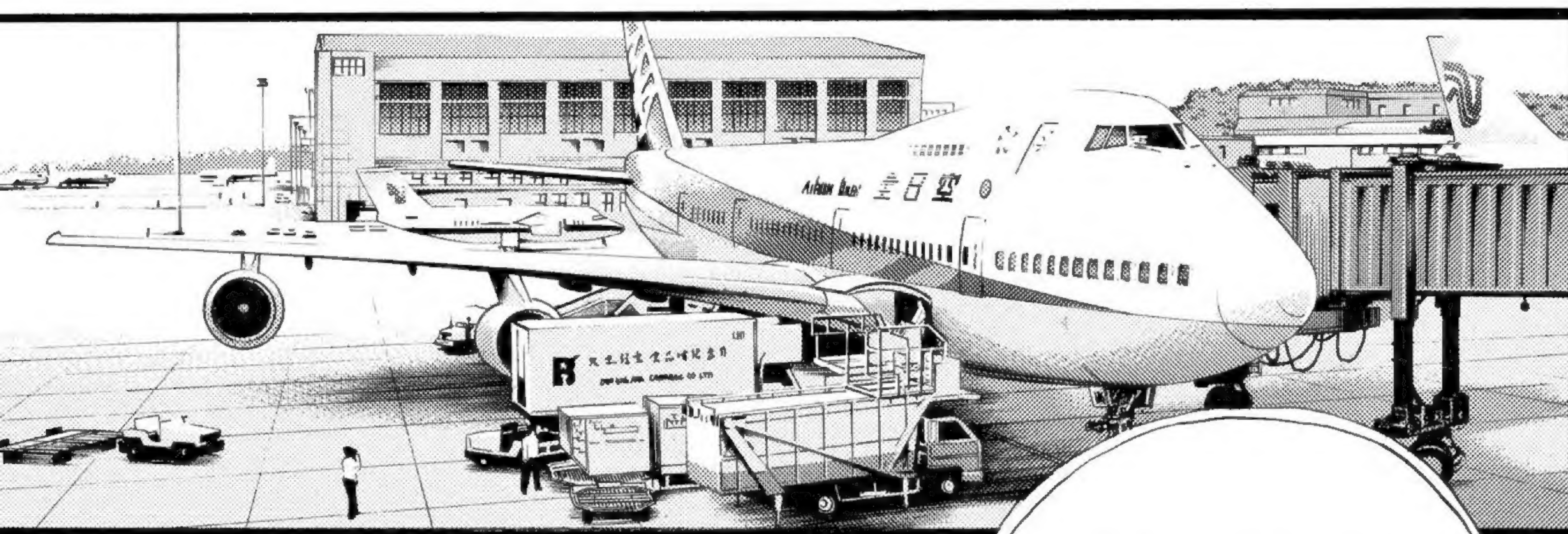
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Game 131 "Chinese Go Association"





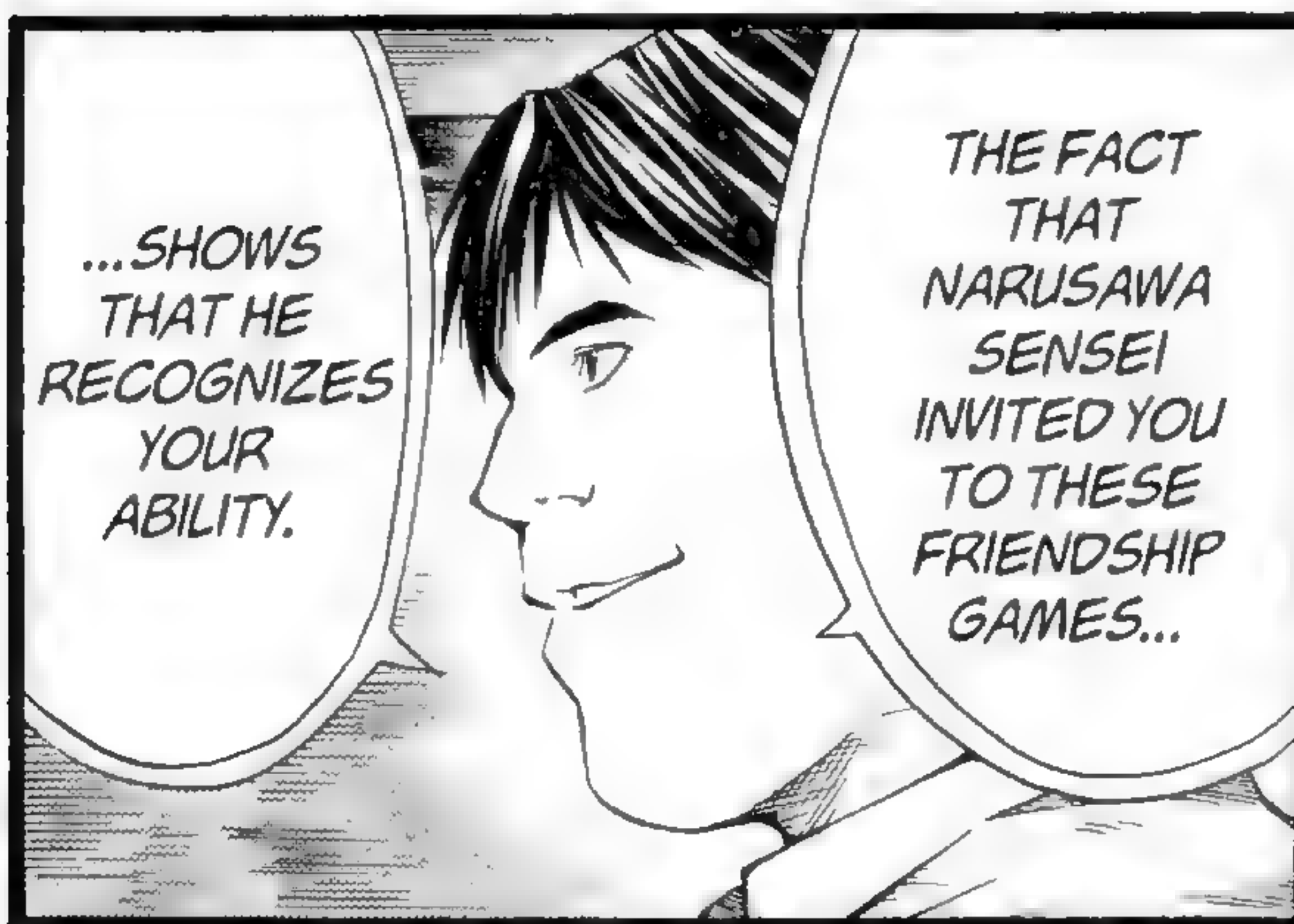


WHY WOULD
HE GIVE UP?
SHIN CAN PLAY
THE AVERAGE
PRO ON
EQUAL
FOOTING.

I GOTTA TELL
YA, ISUMI, WHEN
YOU LEFT THE
KYUSEIKAI CLUB
LAST YEAR, I
THOUGHT YOU'D
GIVEN UP ON
GOING PRO.



I WASN'T
SUGGESTING HE
LACKS THE ABILITY.
BUT I THOUGHT HE
GOT DISCOUR-
AGED AND LOST
HIS WILL.



...SHOWS
THAT HE
RECOGNIZES
YOUR
ABILITY.

THE FACT
THAT
NARUSAWA
SENSEI
INVITED YOU
TO THESE
FRIENDSHIP
GAMES...



I'M SORRY I
WORRIED
YOU.

I SPENT
SOME
TIME
ALONE TO
RECOVER
MY
SPIRIT.



ABOUT TIME.
YOU'RE
ALREADY 19!

YES. FOR HIS
SAKE AS WELL,
I INTEND TO
PASS THE TEST
THIS YEAR.













NO
THANKS.



SHINDO...

EVERYONE
ELSE IS MOVING
FORWARD
WHILE YOU'RE
STANDING STILL!



A BUNCH OF
THE INSEI
ARE COMING
OVER.
YOU SHOULD
COME TOO!



AND I HEARD
ISUMI WENT TO
CHINA TO PLAY
THE PROS
THERE.

HONDA AND
KOMIYA AND
THE OTHERS
ARE WORKING
HARD TO
PREPARE FOR
THIS YEAR'S
PRO TEST.



OCHI HAS
PLAYED FOUR
ALREADY AND
WON ALL OF
THEM.

I PLAYED
THREE
OTEAI
MATCHES.
I WON TWO
AND LOST
ONE.







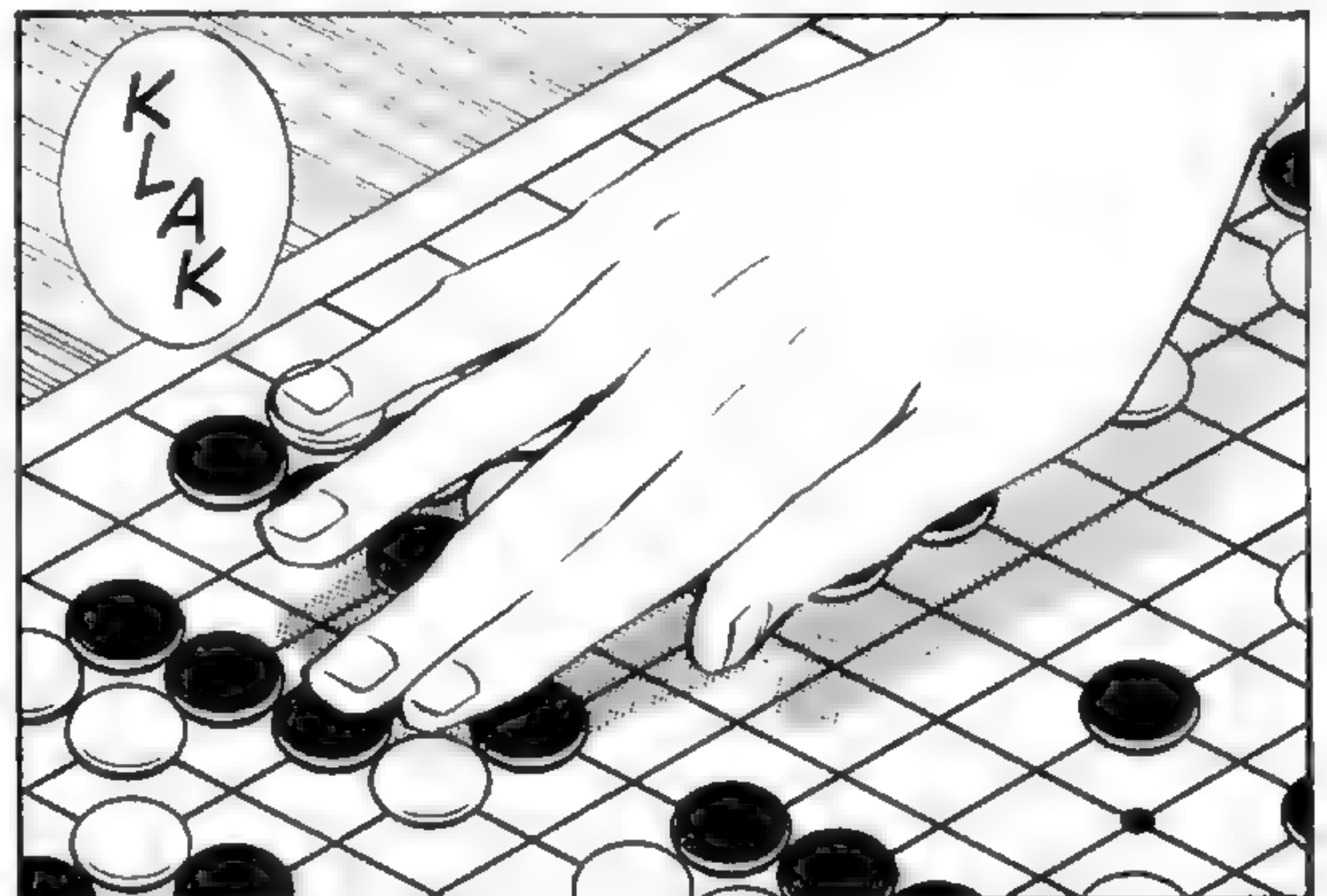
NOW FOR
THE AFTER-
NOON
MATCHES...

01
GAME ROOM

QUIET, PLEASE.
GAMES IN
PROGRESS.



NARUSAWA
SENSEI
SENDS HIS
APOLOGIES
FOR BEING
UNABLE TO
COME THIS
YEAR.







WE'VE
CHECKED
OUT.



WE HAVE
SOME TIME.
LET'S GO TO
TIANANMEN
SQUARE.

NOW ALL WE
HAVE TO DO
IS SAY BYE TO
RYU AND THE
OTHERS, AND
WE'RE DONE.



I DIDN'T COME
ALL THE WAY
TO CHINA TO
SEE THEIR
DEPARTMENT
STORES.

I'D
RATHER GO
SHOPPING.

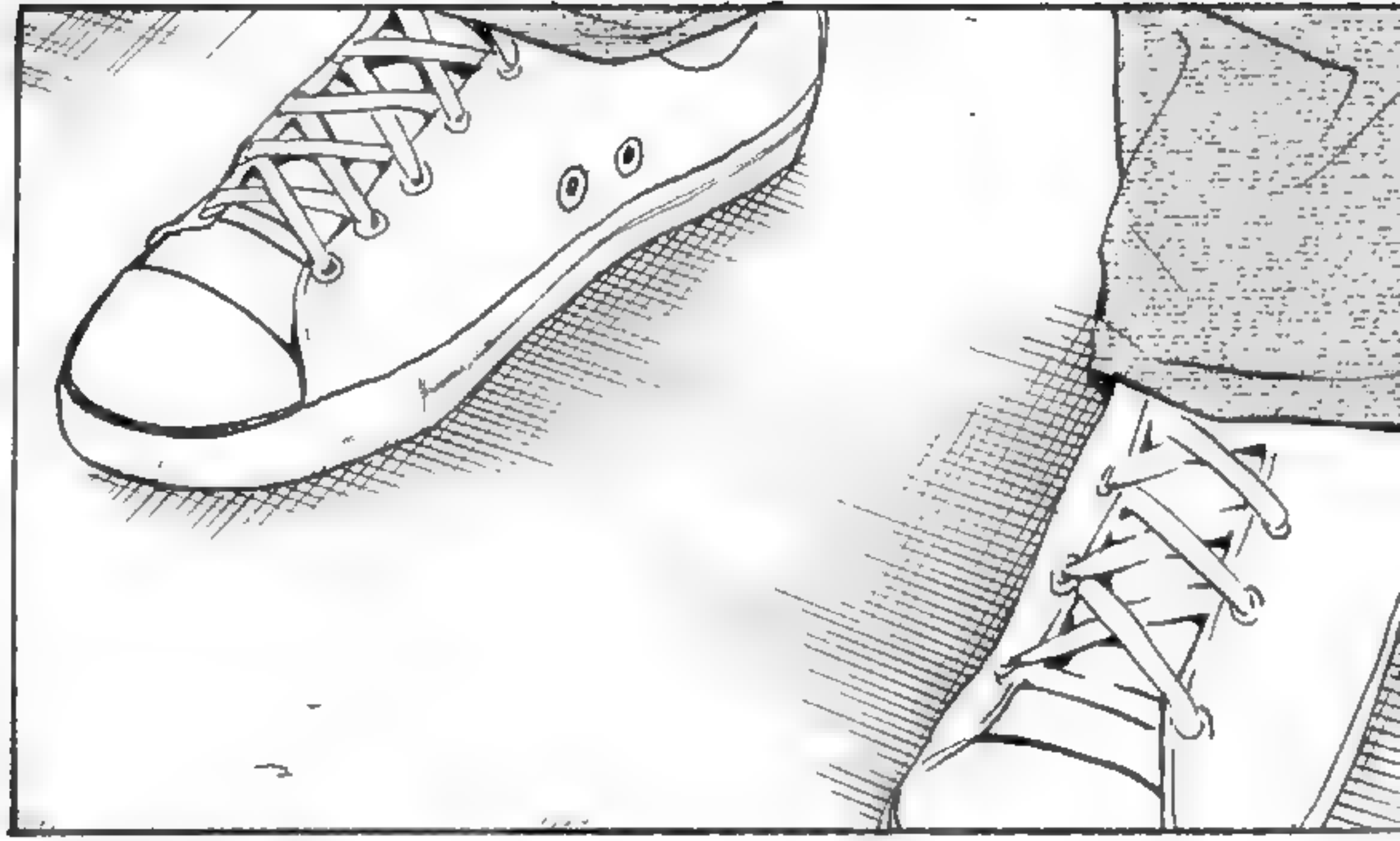


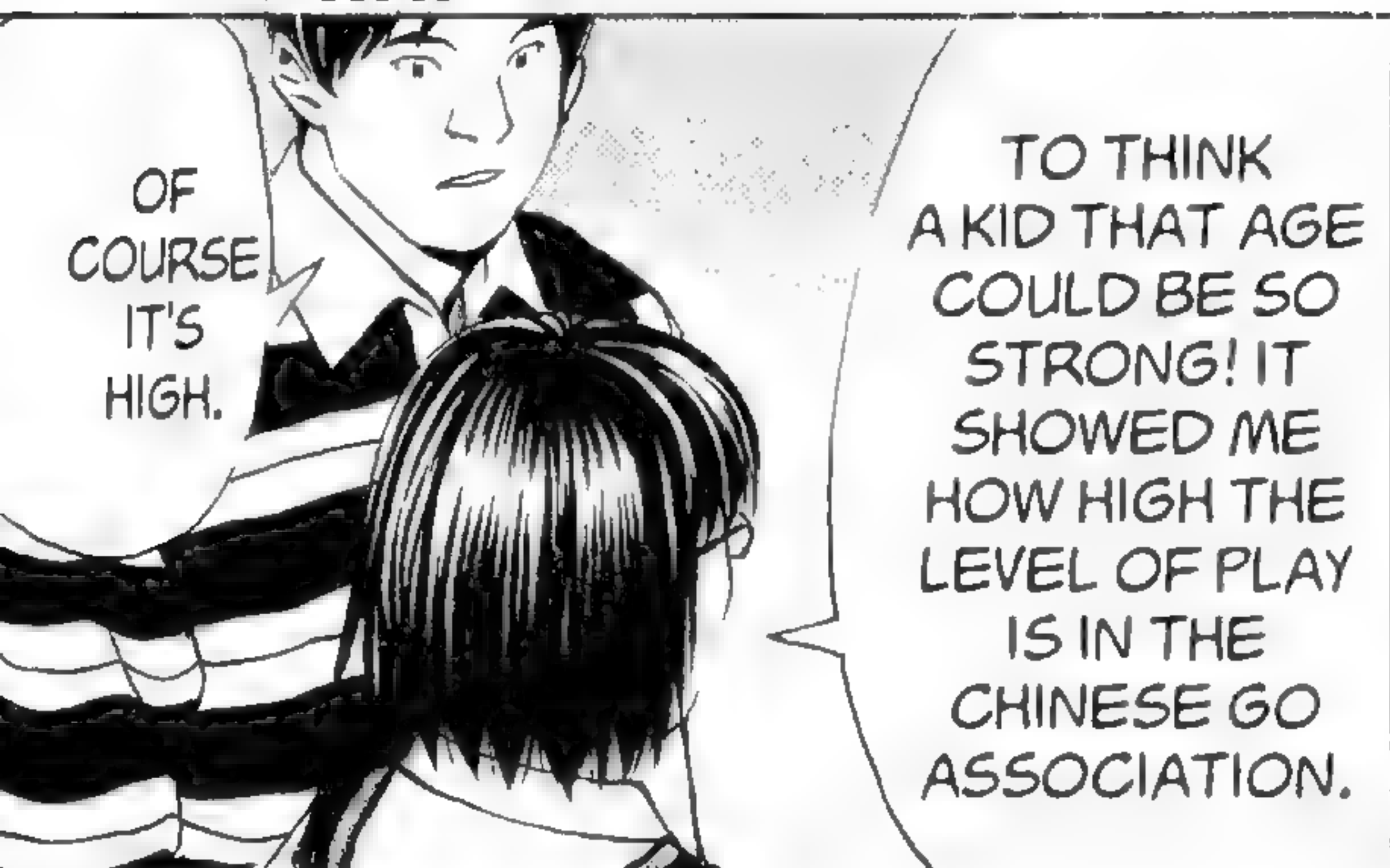
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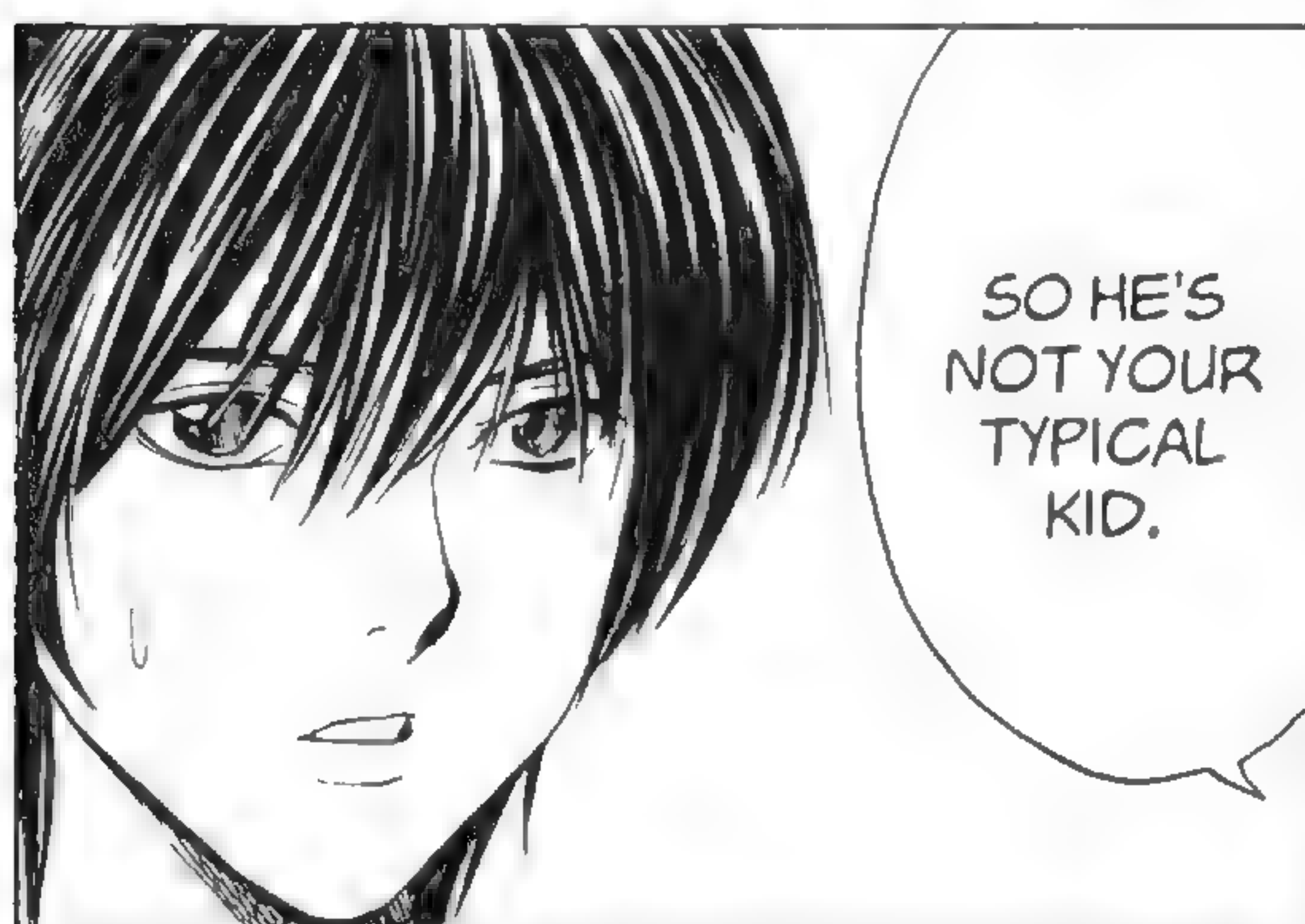


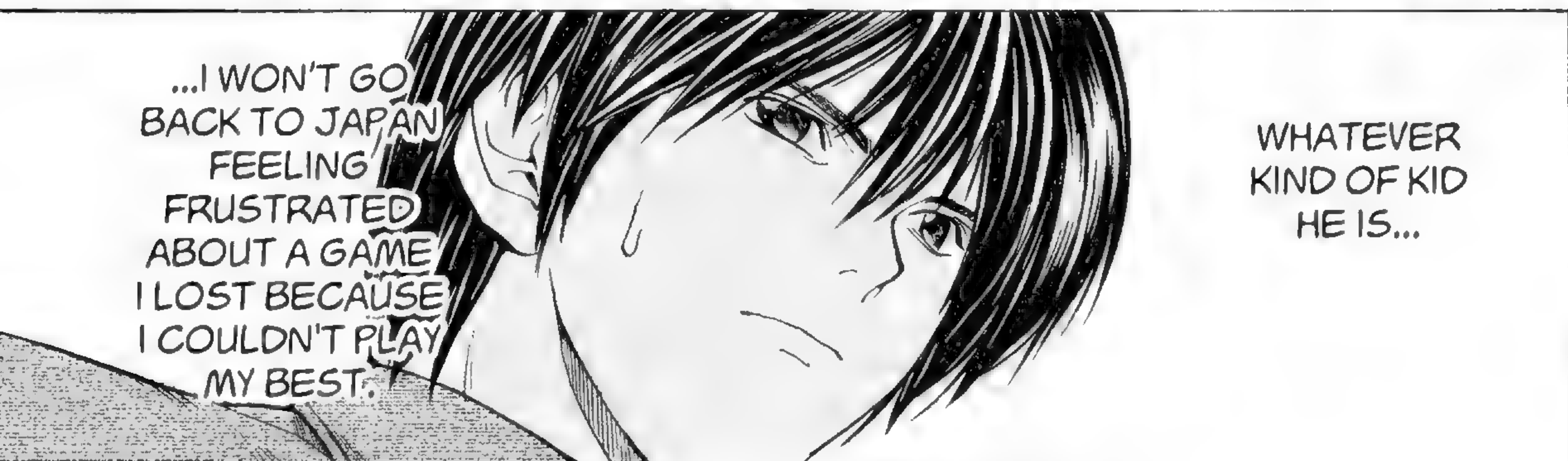
DID YOU,
ISUMI?

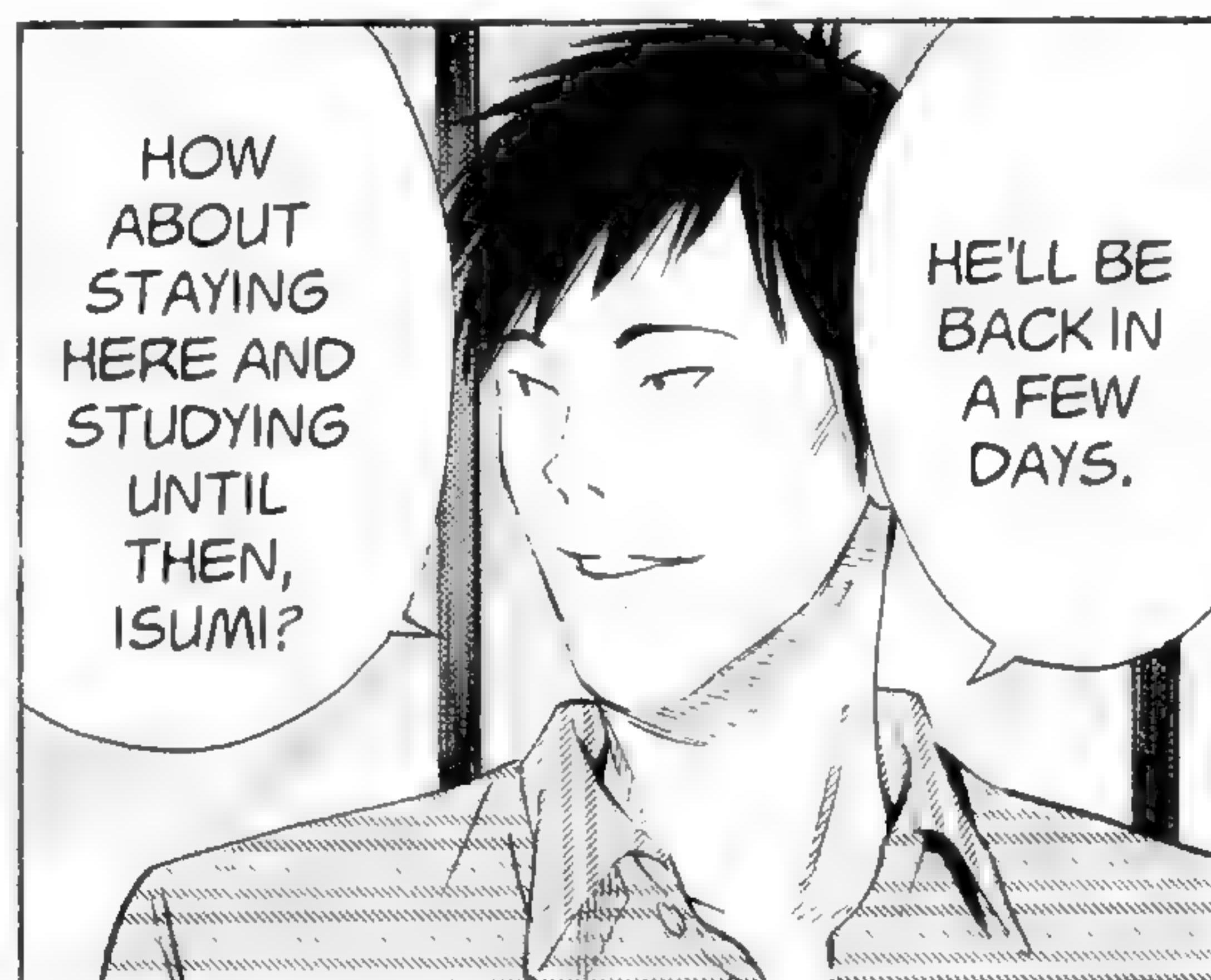














SHIN...



YOU CAN
GET A
ROOM AT
A NEARBY
HOTEL AND
COMMUTE
HERE.

WE WELCOME
MOTIVATED
PLAYERS.



IT MIGHT
BE A GOOD
LEARNING
OPPORTUNITY.

THIS IS AN
UNEXPECTED
TURN OF
EVENTS...



THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH.

I'LL DO
THAT.



AND I'M
HAVING A
HARDER TIME
SWALLOWING
MY PILLS.

I'M GETTING
MORE
FARSIGHTED.

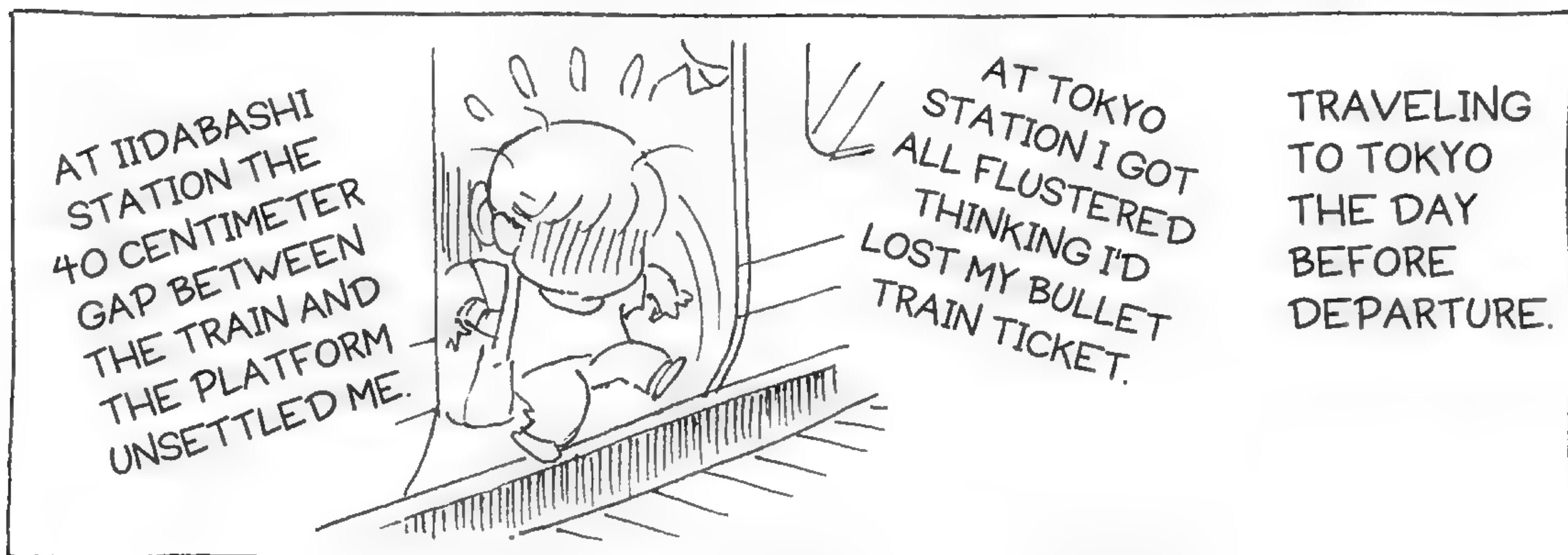
TRAVELING
OVERSEAS
IS NO PICNIC
FOR US OLD
FOLKS.

A TRIP
TO CHINA
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF THE
SUMMER.

HIKARU NO GO
RESEARCH
TRIP TO THE
CHINESE GO
ASSOCIATION

①

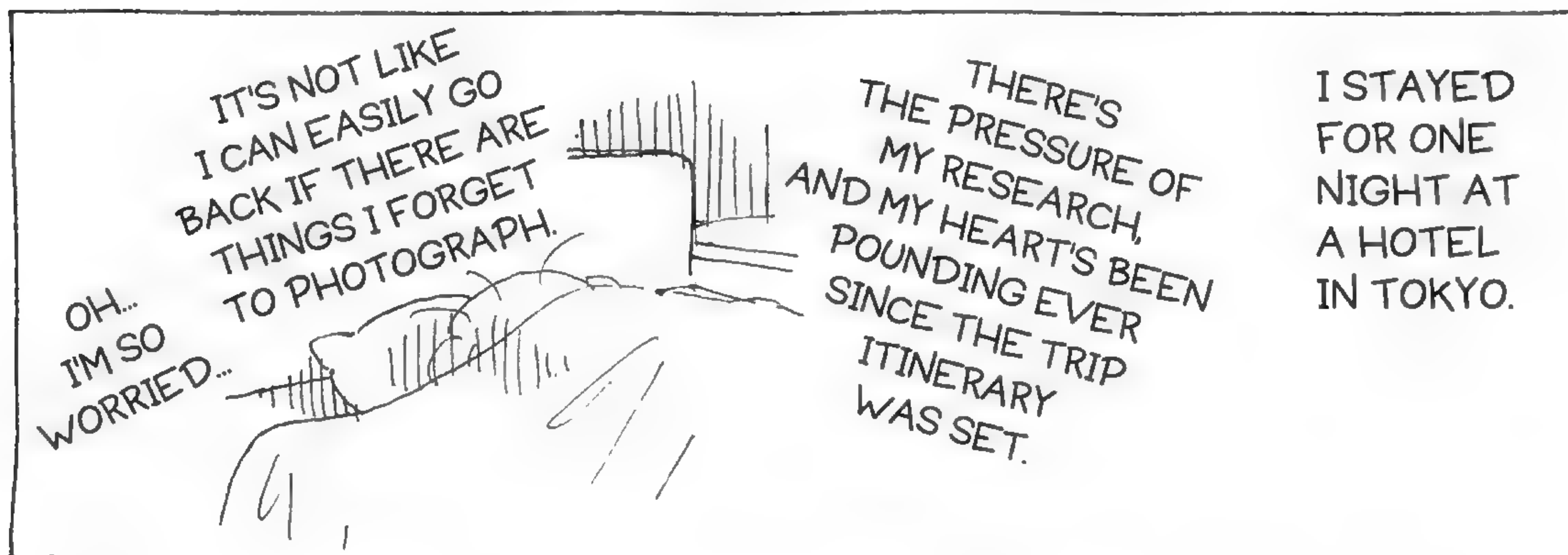
YUMI
HOTTA



AT IIDABASHI
STATION THE
40 CENTIMETER
GAP BETWEEN
THE TRAIN AND
THE PLATFORM
UNSETTLED ME.

AT TOKYO
STATION I GOT
ALL FLUSTERED
THINKING I'D
LOST MY BULLET
TRAIN TICKET.

TRAVELING
TO TOKYO
THE DAY
BEFORE
DEPARTURE.



IT'S NOT LIKE
I CAN EASILY GO
BACK IF THERE ARE
THINGS I FORGET
TO PHOTOGRAPH.
OH...
I'M SO
WORRIED...

THERE'S
THE PRESSURE OF
MY RESEARCH,
AND MY HEART'S BEEN
POUNDING EVER
SINCE THE TRIP
ITINERARY
WAS SET.

I STAYED
FOR ONE
NIGHT AT
A HOTEL
IN TOKYO.



Sure.

White
wine!

BUT HAVING SAID THAT...

**I DO LOVE
AIRPLANES!**



Game 132
"Le Ping"





IT IS A
GATHERING
OF THE
ELITE.

YOU'VE
HEARD
ABOUT THIS
PLACE, YOU
SAY?



SOME KIDS
WHO SHOW
POTENTIAL
SIMPLY DON'T
ADVANCE AS
MUCH AS WE
HOPE.

BUT IT'S
TOUGH.
PLAYERS WHO
DO POORLY
IN THE
TOURNAMENTS
ARE SENT
HOME.



NONE OF THE
YOUNG PLAYERS
SPEAK JAPANESE,
BUT I THINK THAT
WON'T BE A
PROBLEM FOR
YOUR STUDY OF
GO, ISUMI.

SOME PEOPLE
LEARN SO THEY
CAN FOLLOW
JAPANESE GO.
OTHERS
BECAUSE THEY
OFTEN ATTEND
INTERNATIONAL
TOURNAMENTS.



WE BOTH
SPEAK
JAPANESE.
THERE ARE A
FEW OTHER
ADULTS WHO
SPEAK IT
TOO.

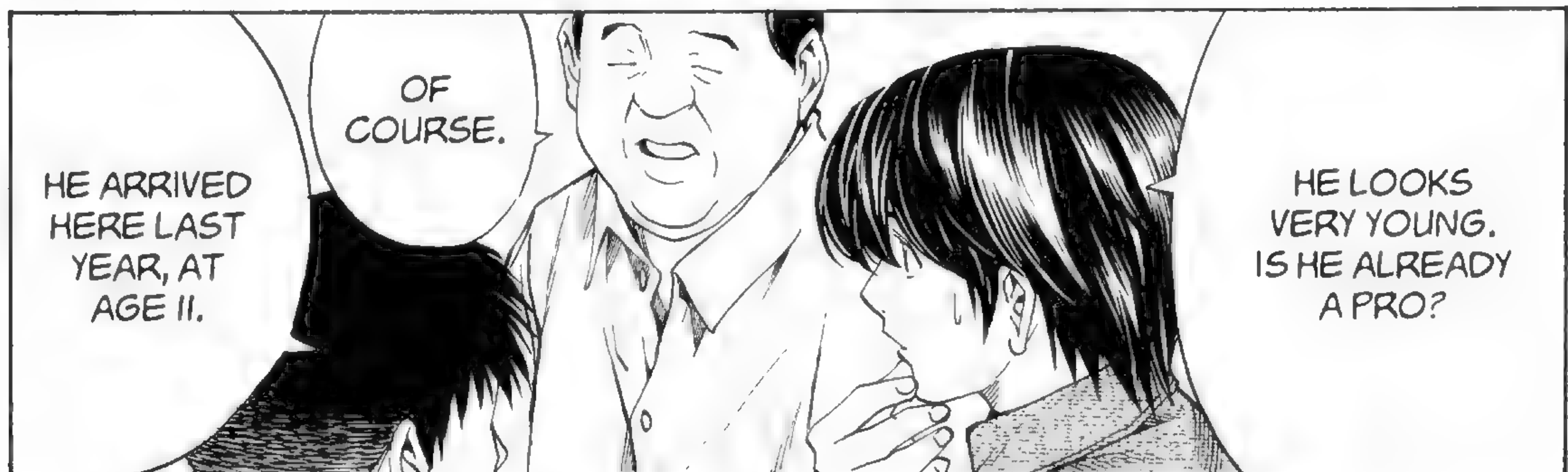
INSTRUC-
TOR LEE
OVERSEES
BOTH GO
AND RESI-
DENTIAL
LIFE.



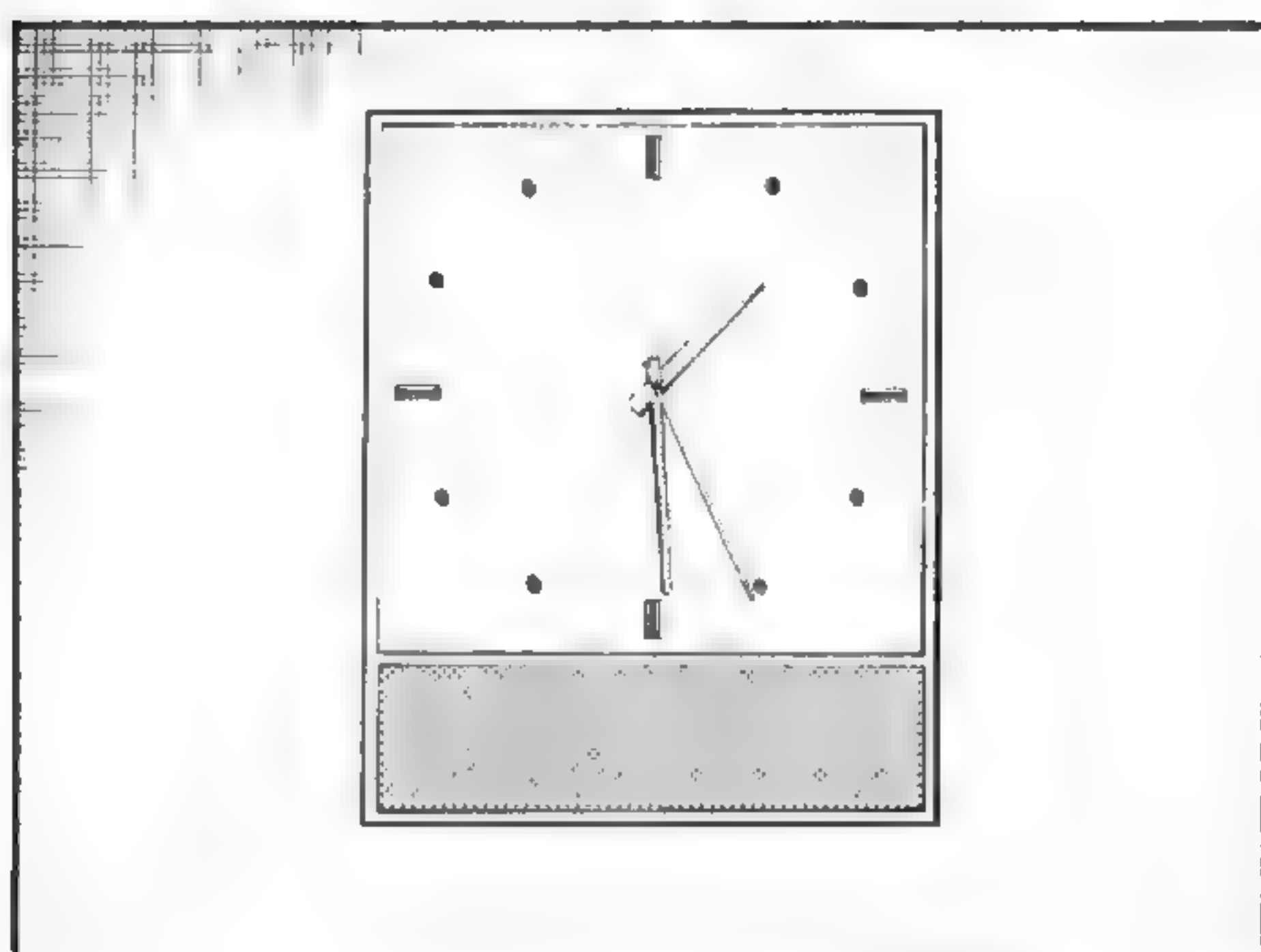
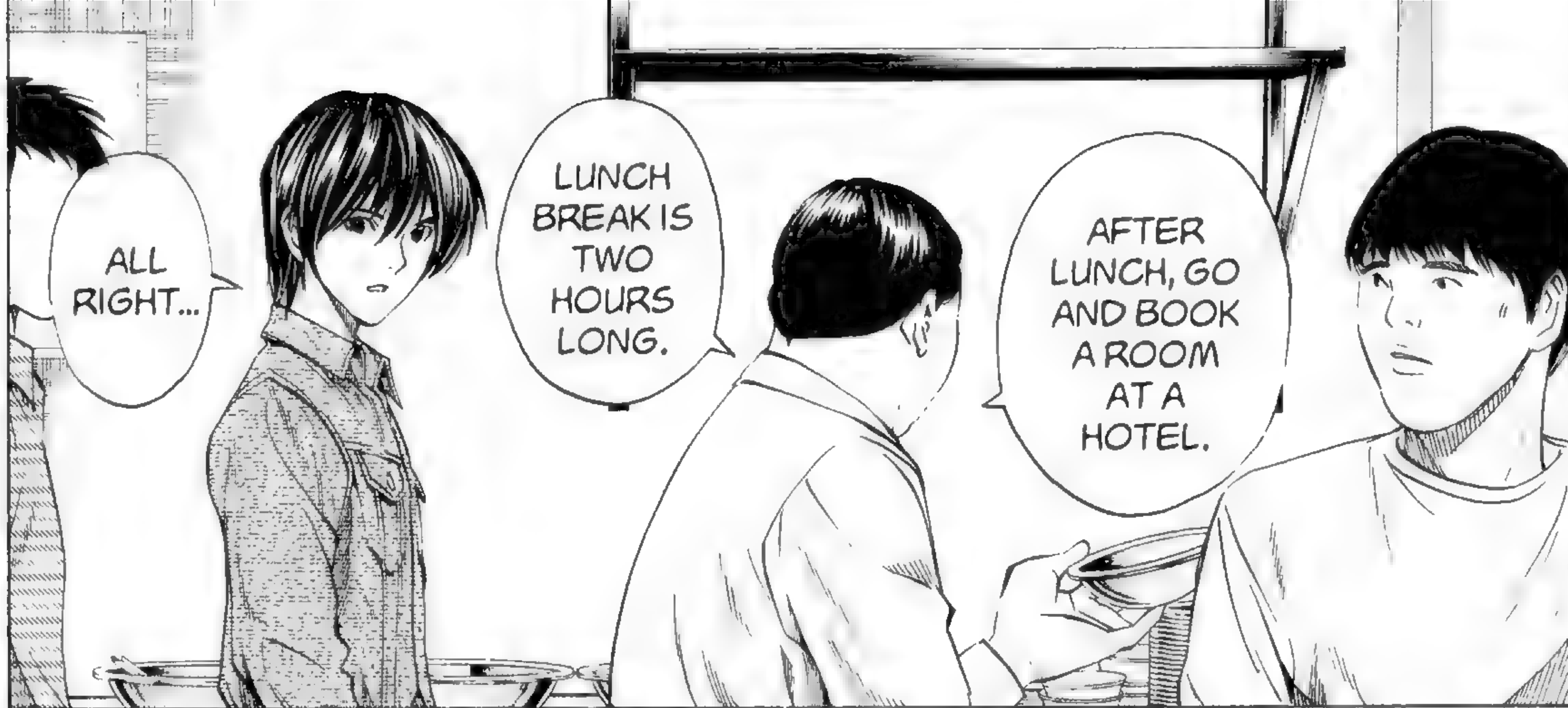














IT'S A LEAGUE
TOURNAMENT.
THIS IS WHERE I
OBSERVE EACH
PLAYER'S
STRENGTH.

THERE ARE
90-MINUTE
PRACTICE
GAMES IN
THE AFTER-
NOON.



...INSTRUCTOR
LEE,

I'LL PLAY
ISUMI...

SKRIT
SKRIT



WHAT DO
YOU THINK,
ISUMI?

WELL...

JUST FIND
SOMEONE
WHO IS
AVAILABLE,
AND PLAY.

THIS
LEAGUE
IS THE
LOW-RANKING
GROUP OF
SHODAN TO
3 DAN
PLAYERS.

I'LL
WRITE
YOUR
NAME IN,
ISUMI.

12 朱德勳

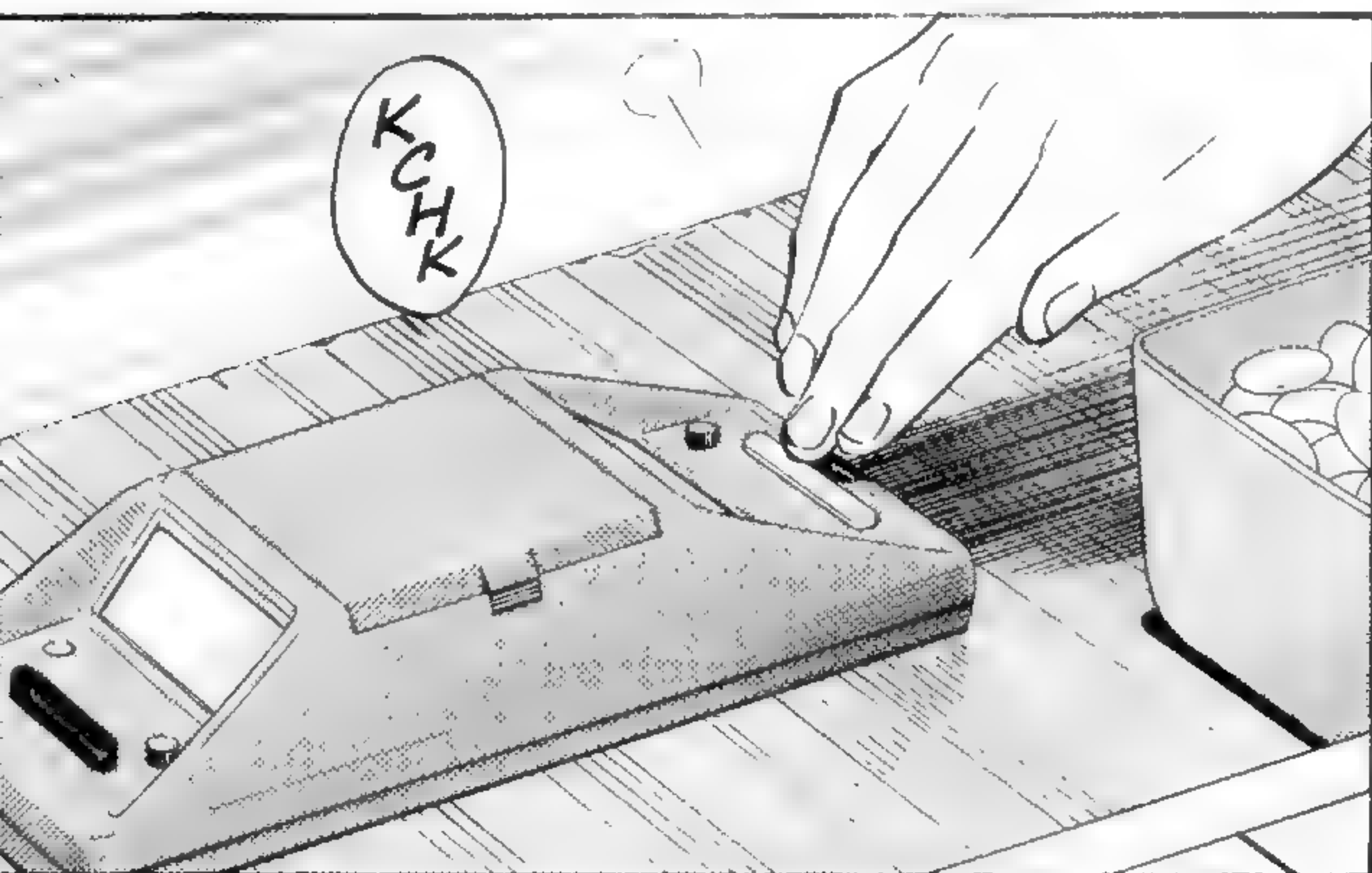
13 王永安

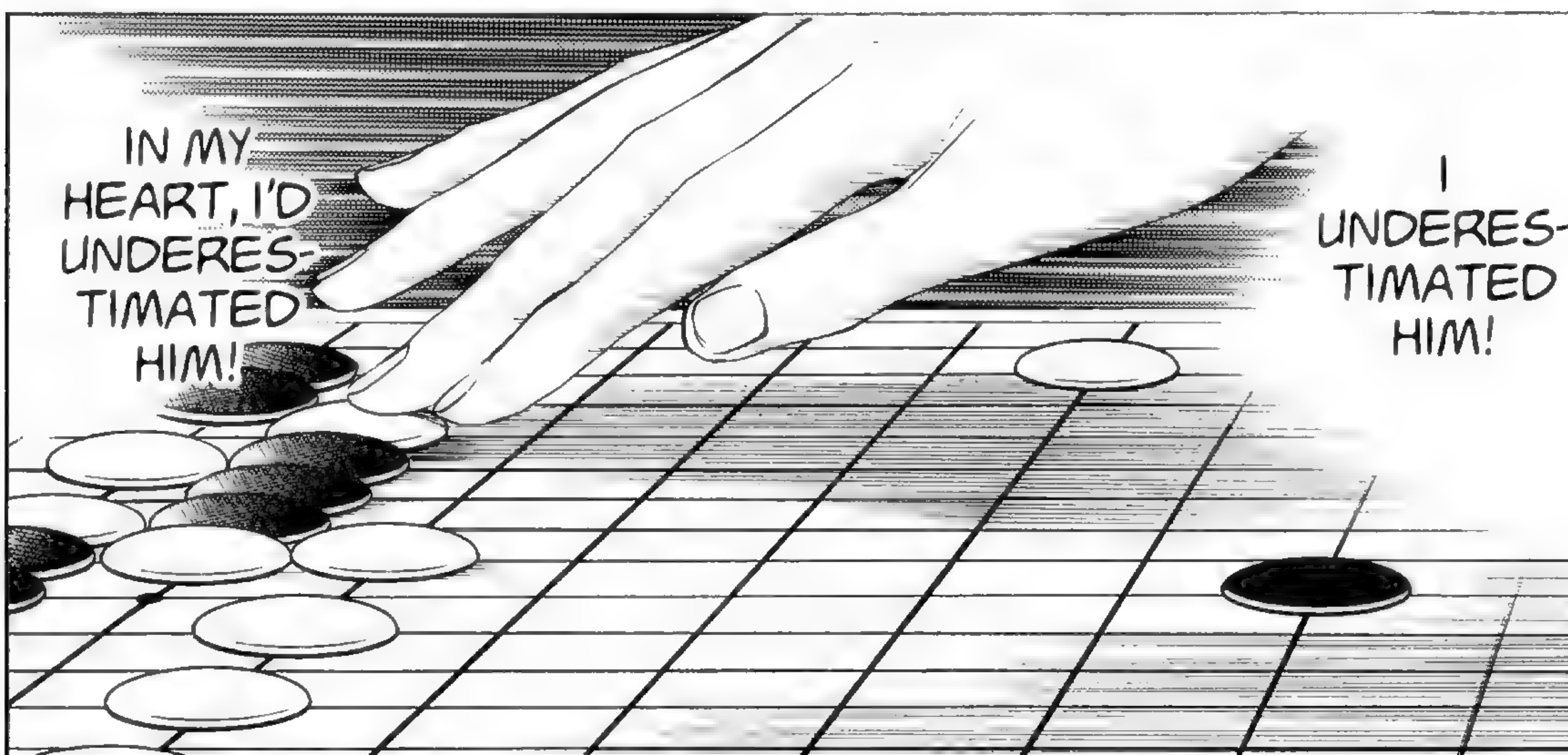
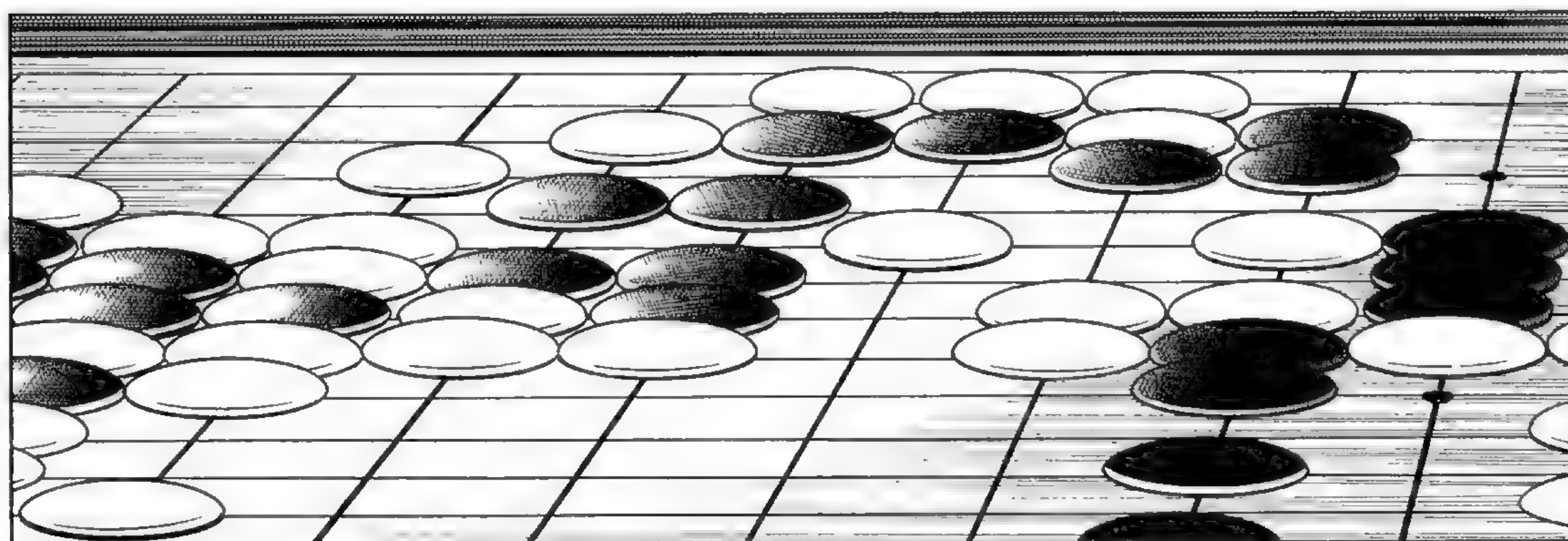
14 樂平

Le Ping

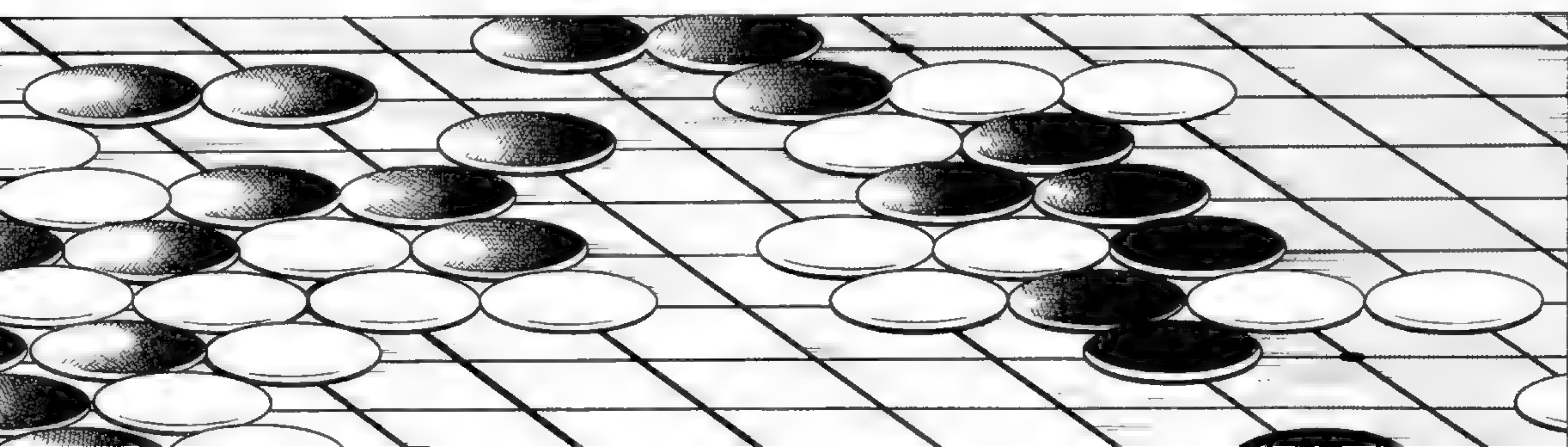
15 陳怡

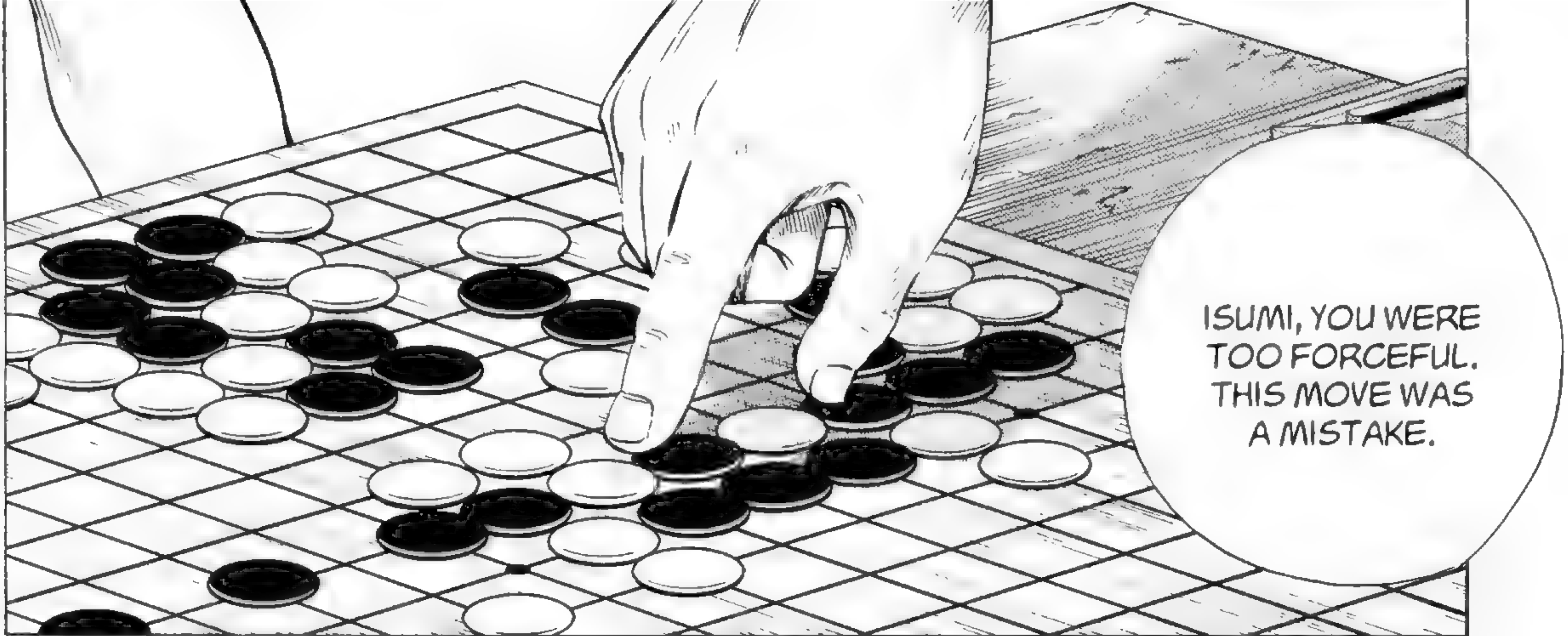
伊丹

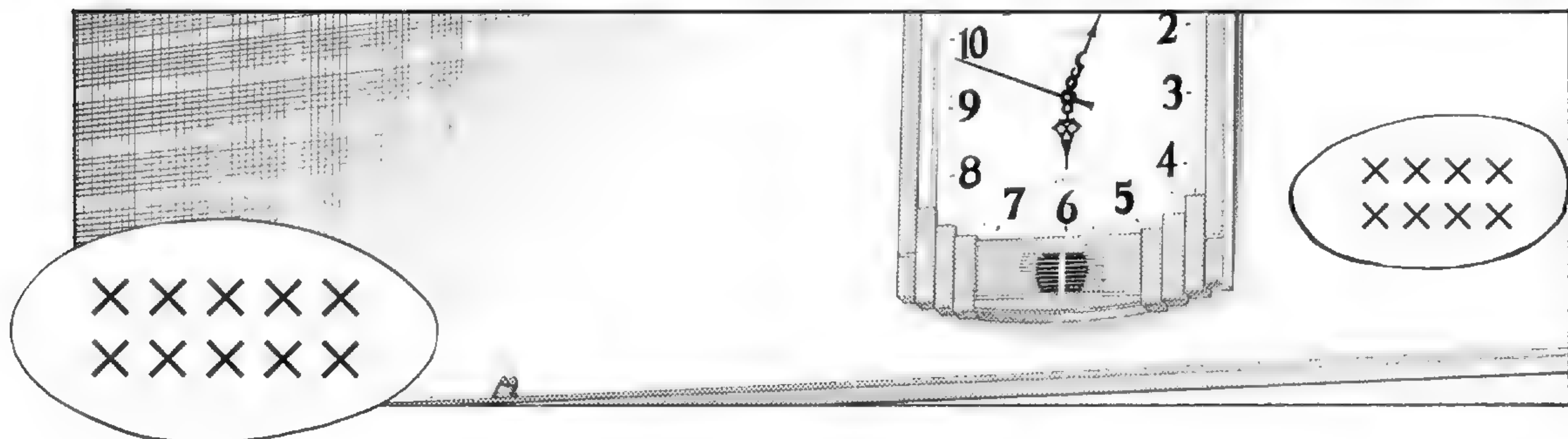




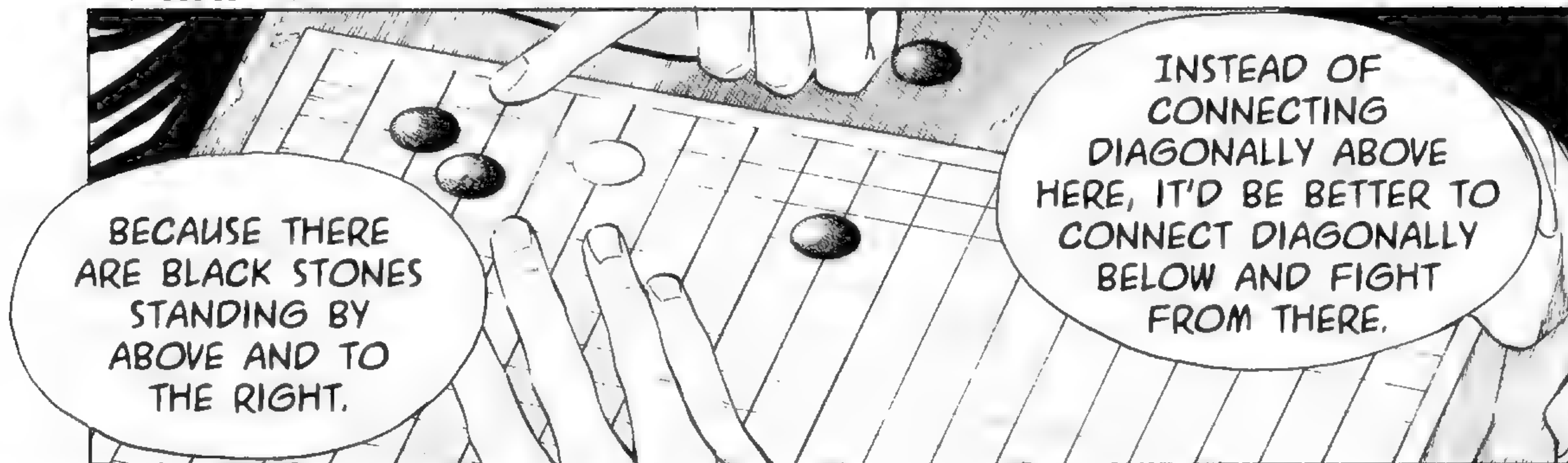
BUT
LE PING
IS
AMONG
THE
CREAM
OF THE
CROP!











FROM MORNING
'TIL NIGHT, THEY
SPEND THEIR DAY
SURROUNDED BY
OTHER ELITE
PRO PLAYERS.

...THEY LIVE
IN THE
MIDST OF
ALL THIS.

AND FOR
MONTHS,
NO,
YEARS...

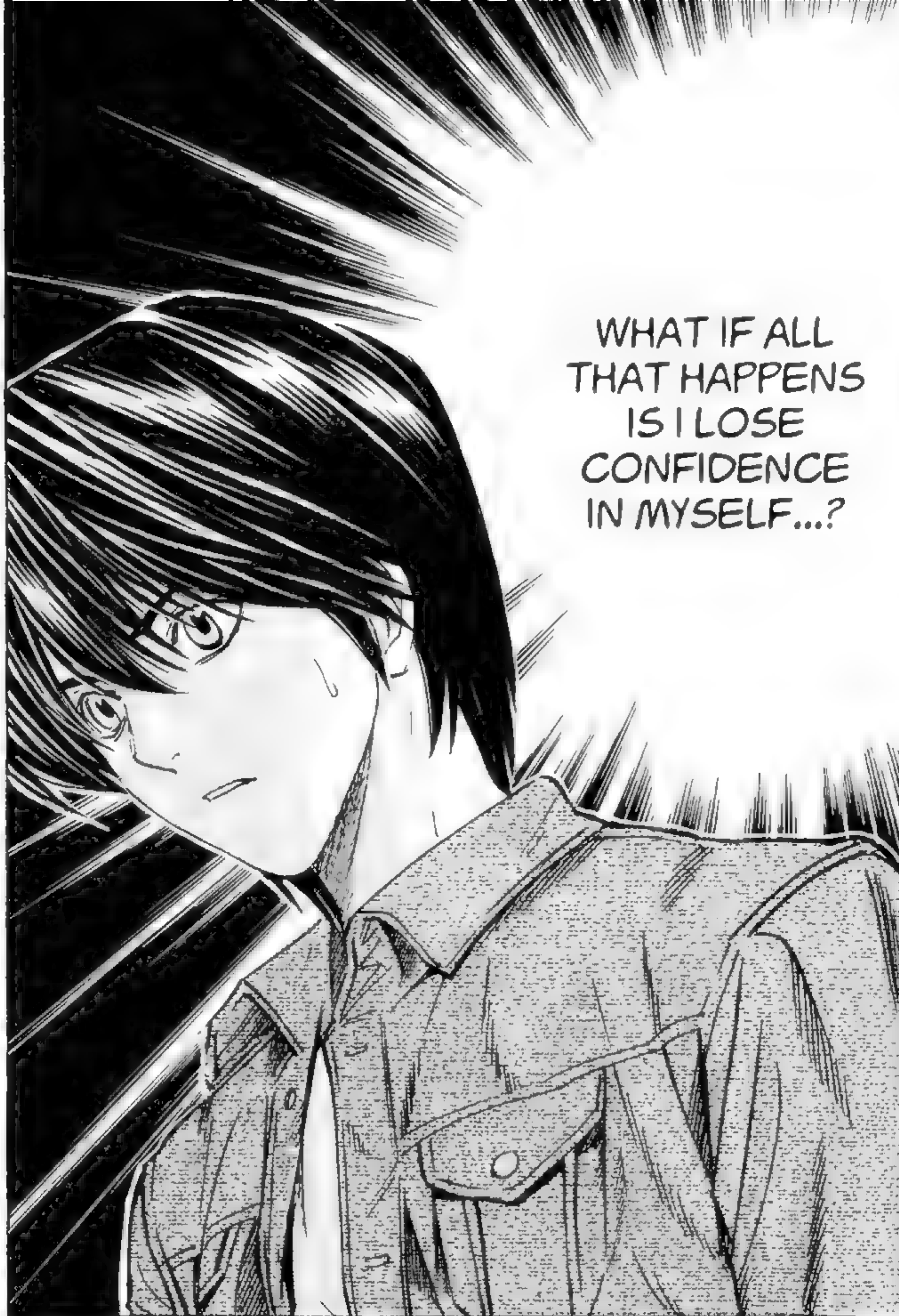
EVEN AFTER
DINNER
THESE GUYS
STUDY LIKE
THIS.



BUT...

I THOUGHT I'D
LEARN A LOT
BY STAYING
BEHIND.

READ
THIS
WAY



HE'S A 19-
YEAR-OLD
PRO PLAYER
IN JAPAN.



ONE WAS
KONG
LINGWEN.

[NOTE:
JAPANESE
READING:
KO REIBUN.]

THERE
WERE
THREE
OF US
ON THIS
TRIP.

HIKARU NO GO
RESEARCH
TRIP TO THE
CHINESE GO
ASSOCIATION

②

YUMI
HOTTA



NOT
EVEN
CLOSE.

A long time ago I went
50 hours without
sleep playing
Dragon Quest!



I set my record
for my longest time
without sleep when I was 15!
I went **5 days**
without sleep at a go
intensive
camp.



Um... I skipped sleep
for two nights, so
that's about
60 hours.



My longest
time without
sleep?

THE OTHER
PERSON
WAS MR.
TAKAHASHI,
MY EDITOR.

But I was
working.



Aren't
we?!



HEY!
THEN
WE'RE
CLOSE!

Game 133 "Isumi, Put to the Test"





AN ELITE GROUP
WHO ARE
STRONGER THAN
MANY OLDER,
HIGHER-RANKED
PLAYERS!

THESE
ARE THE
TOP PROS
IN THEIR
TEENS
AND 20s!



WHAT AM I
DOING AMONG
THEM?



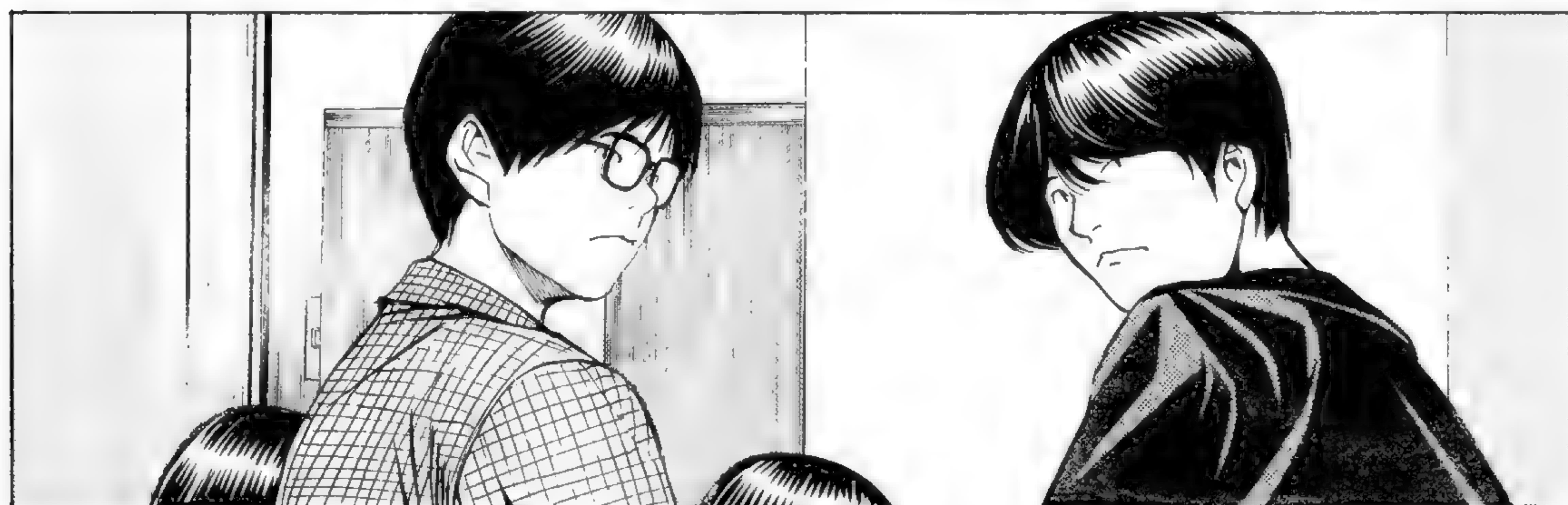
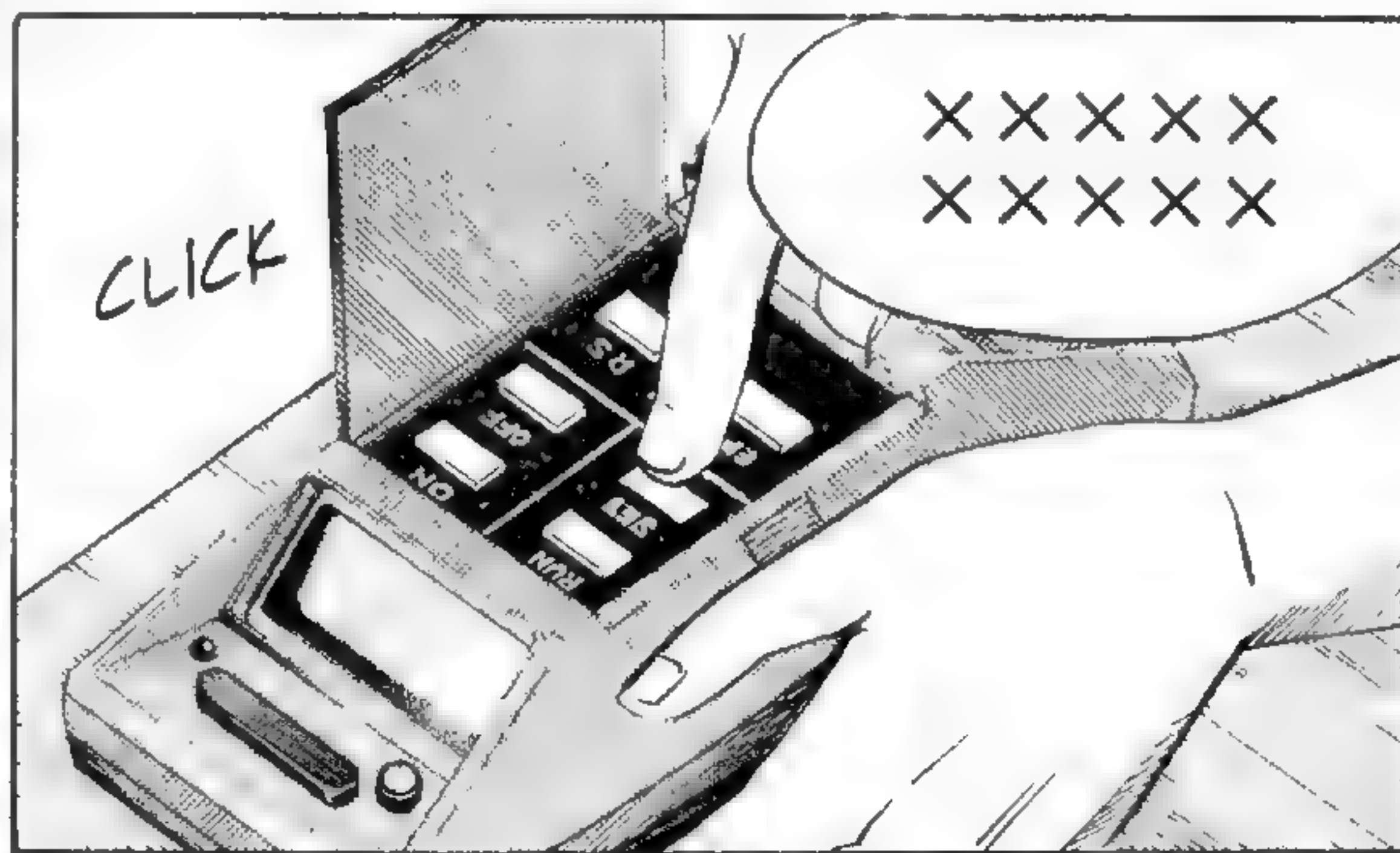
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

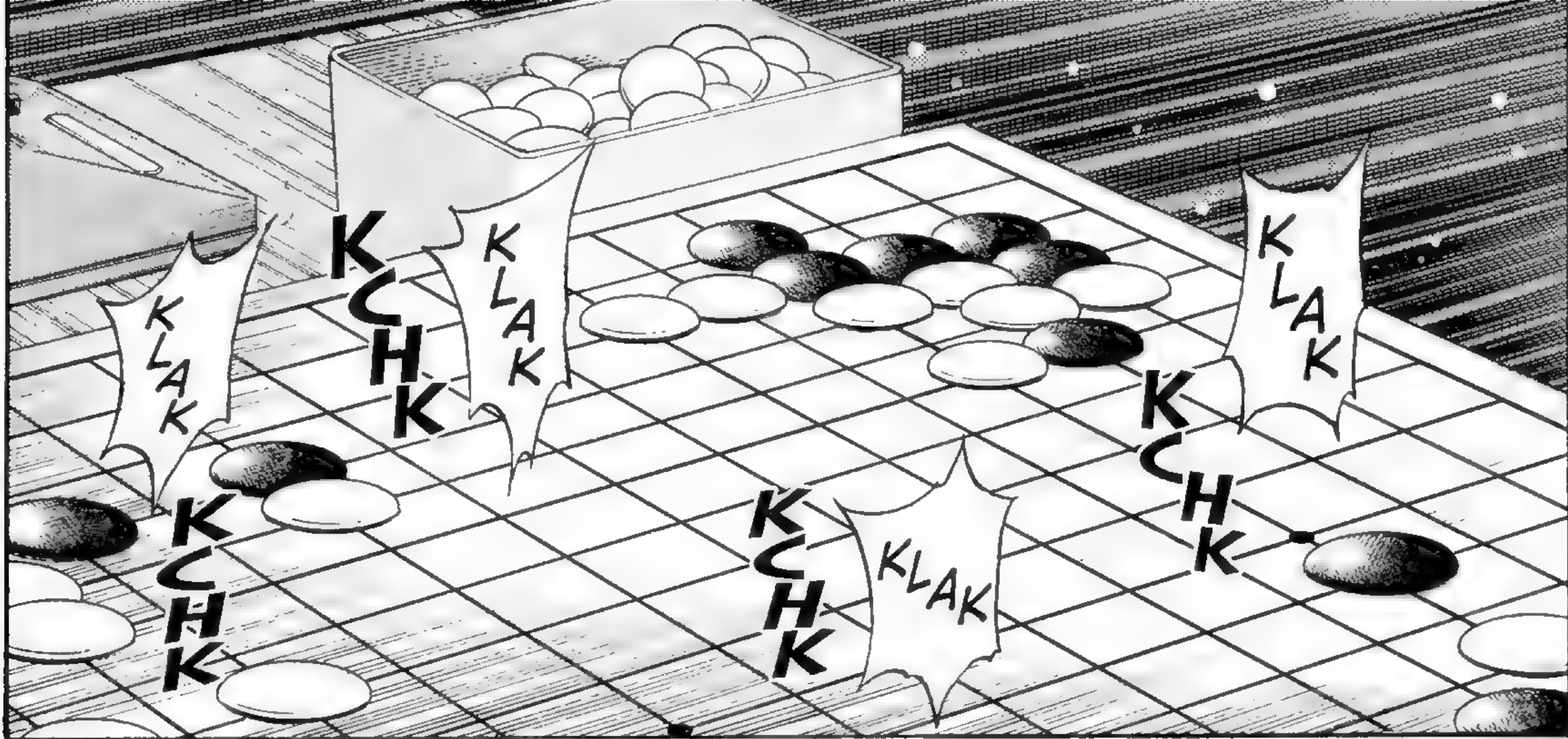


Y-YES?!

ISUMI...

!













YES.

WHERE ARE
YOU STAYING?
A HOTEL?

I SPEAK
ENGLISH AND
KOREAN TOO.
LANGUAGES
ARE MY
HOBBY.

HOW'S MY
JAPANESE?
NOT BAD,
HUH?



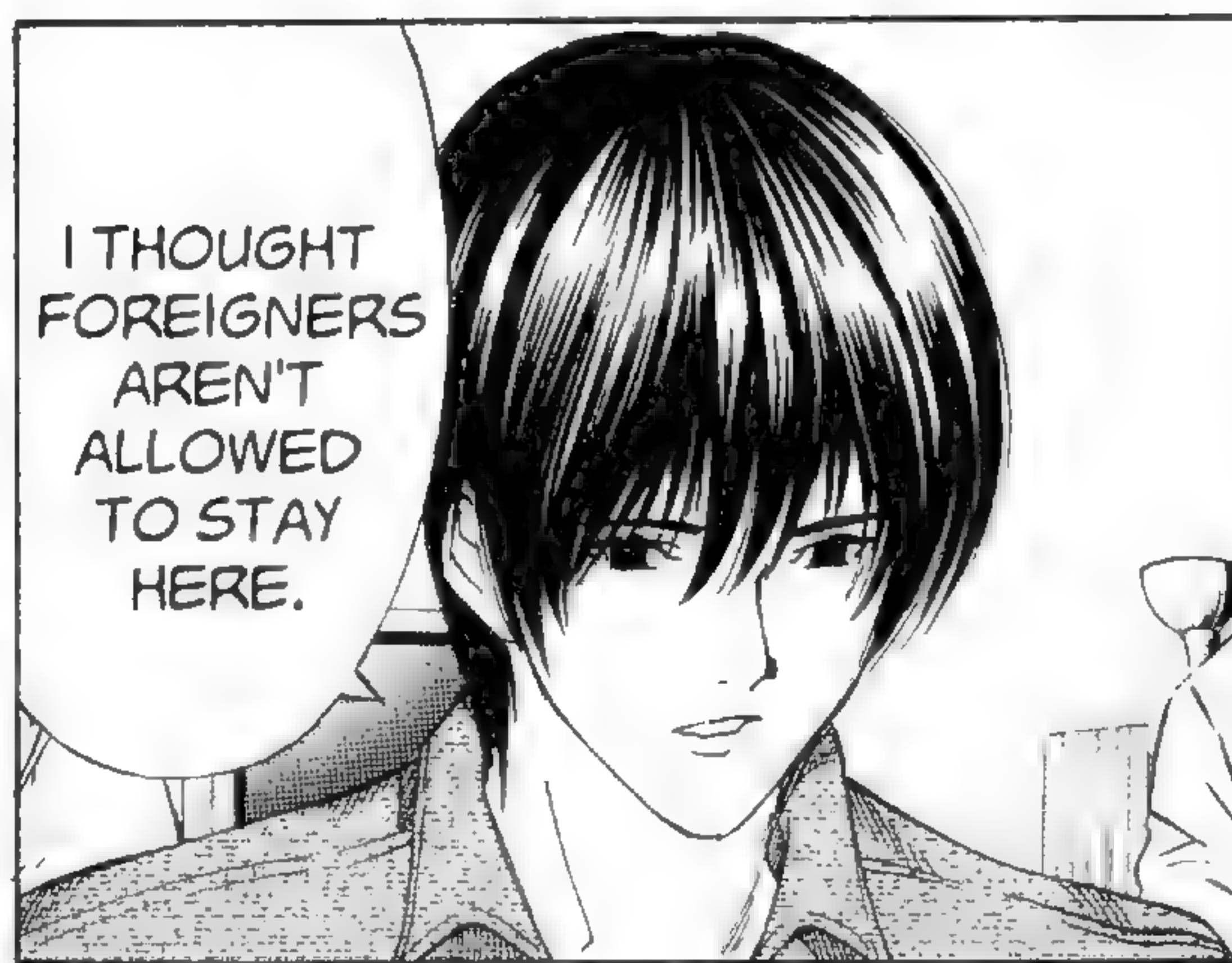
YOU DON'T
NEED TO
PAY ME
ANYTHING.

WHO CARES?
INSTRUCTOR
LEE GOES
HOME BY FIVE.
HE WON'T
KNOW.

BUT...
UH...



MY ROOM'S A
DOUBLE AND
THE OTHER
BED IS OPEN.
WANT TO STAY
THERE?
IT'S 303.



I THOUGHT
FOREIGNERS
AREN'T
ALLOWED
TO STAY
HERE.



I WON'T BE
HERE LONG,
ANYWAY.

NO THANKS.
I'D PREFER
TO...REMAIN IN
THE HOTEL.





I STUCK IT OUT
STUBBORNLY
AGAINST OCHI,
AND THAT'S
WHAT SAVED
ME.

IN LAST YEAR'S
PRO TEST,
I LOST THREE
IN A ROW TO
SHINDO, WAYA
AND FUKU.



THAT'S
HOW I FELT
BACK
THEN.

I BELIEVED
IN MY OWN
STRENGTH.

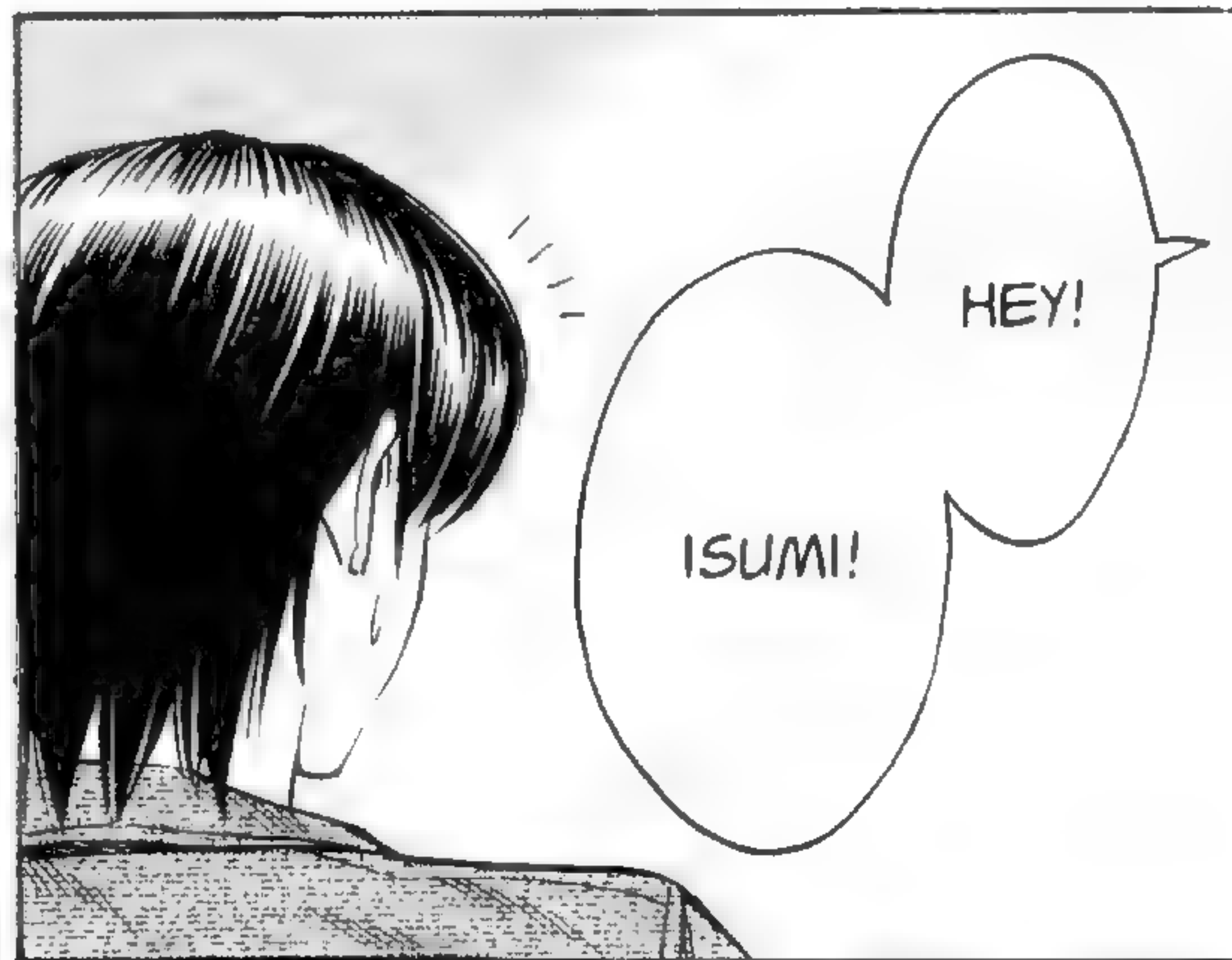
MY GAME
OF GO
KEPT ME
GOING.



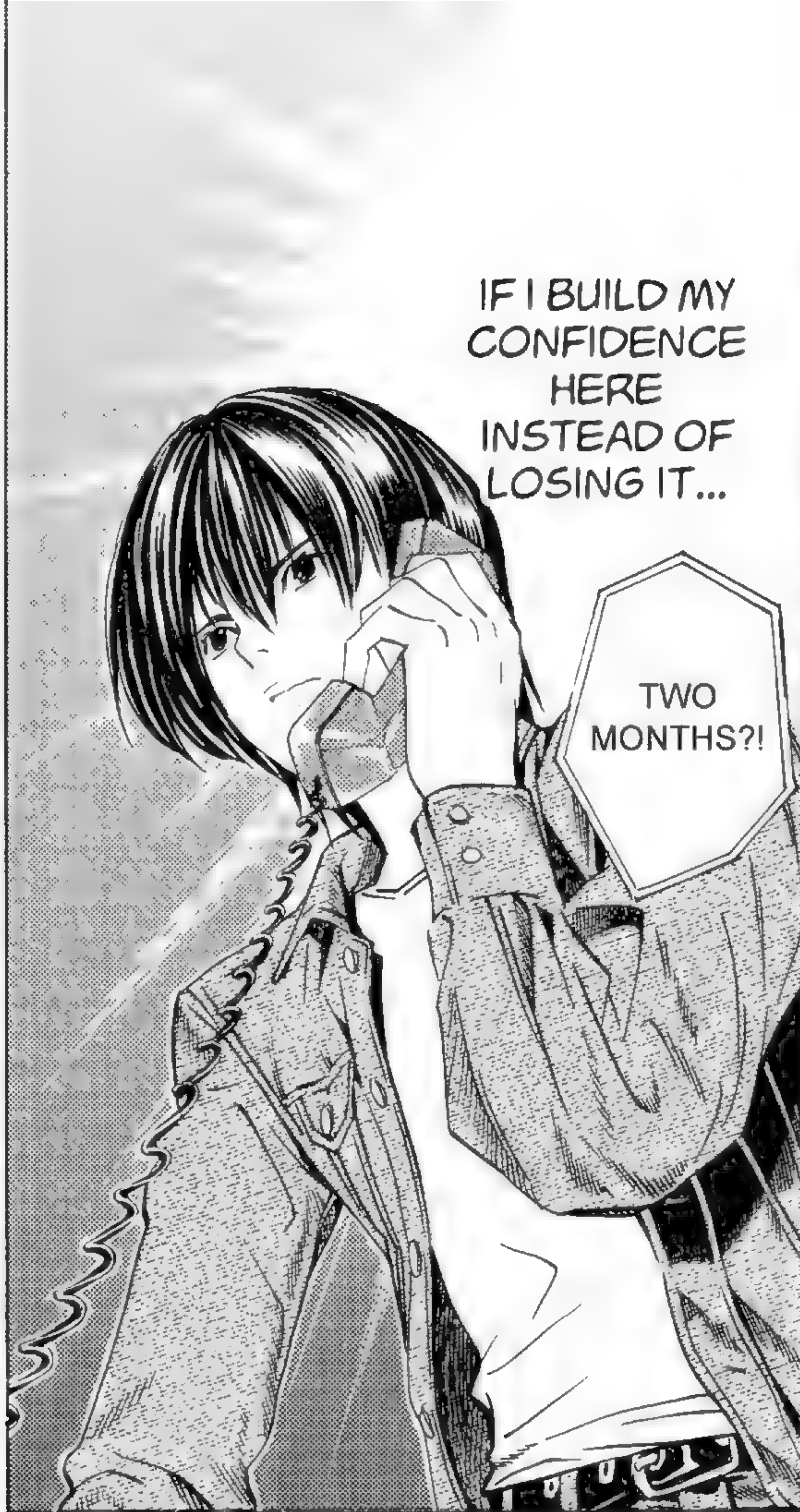
CAN I COUNT
ON MY GO TO
COME
THROUGH
FOR ME?

BUT WILL I BE
ABLE TO FEEL
LIKE THAT
HERE, AT THE
CHINESE GO
ASSOCIATION?









IF I BUILD MY
CONFIDENCE
HERE
INSTEAD OF
LOSING IT...

TWO
MONTHS?!



SHIN-
ICHIRO?

...



THAT'S
RIGHT...
TWO
MONTHS.

I'M
STAYING
UNTIL THE
PRO
TEST.



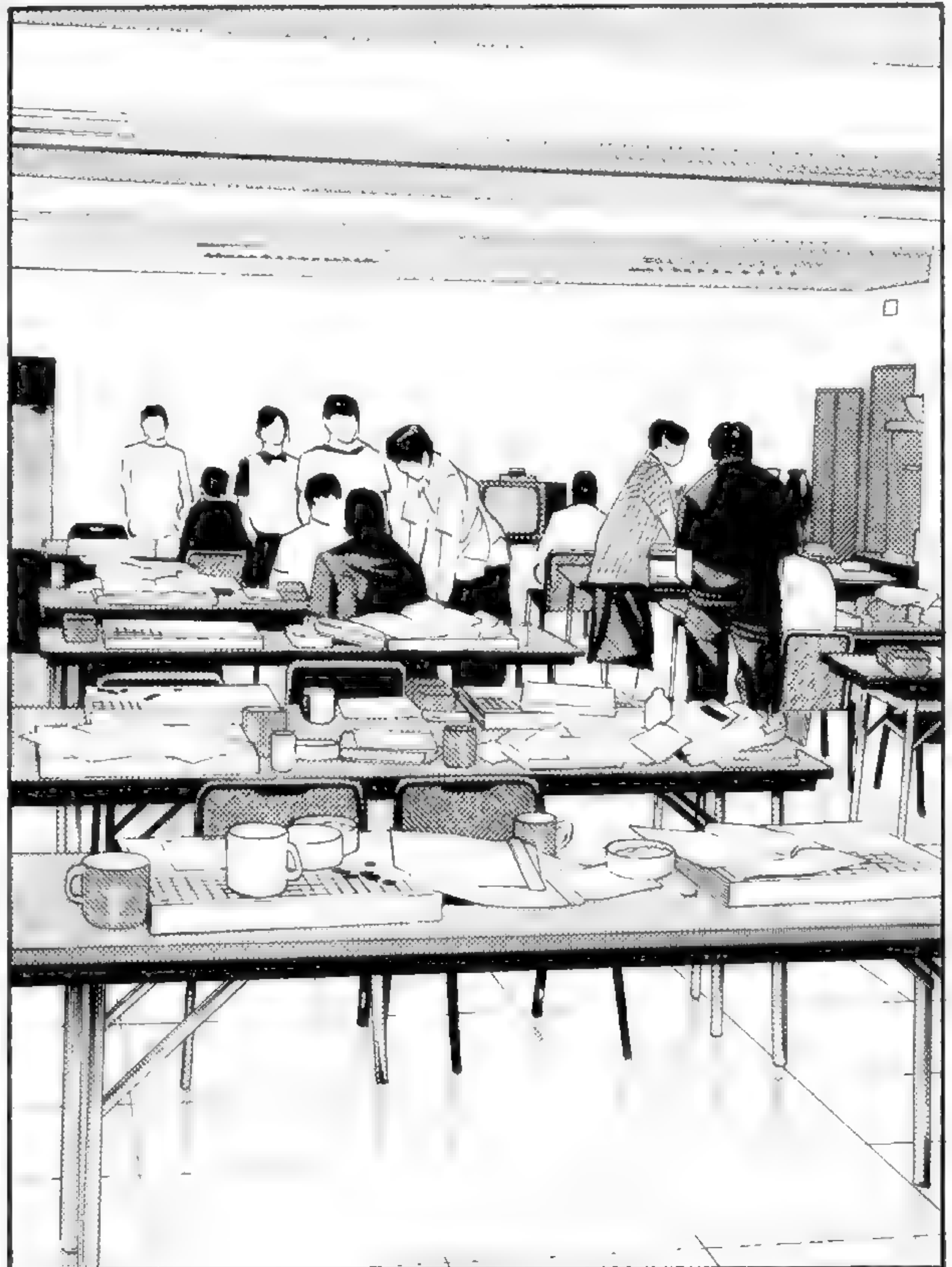
BUT WON'T IT
BE EXPENSIVE
TO STAY SO
LONG?

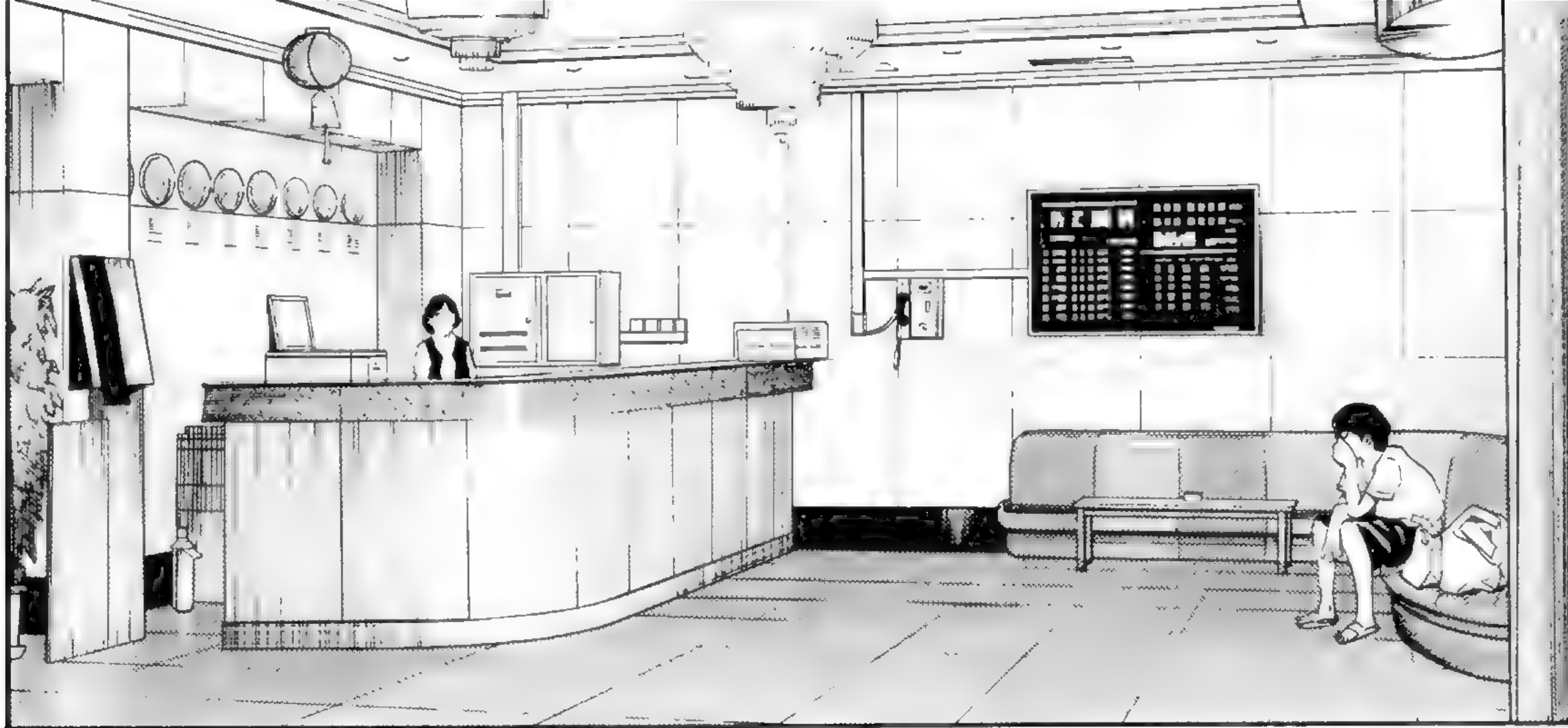
...THEN I CAN
HOLD MY
HEAD UP HIGH
AS I TAKE THE
PRO
TEST...AND
TACKLE THE
PRO
WORLD!

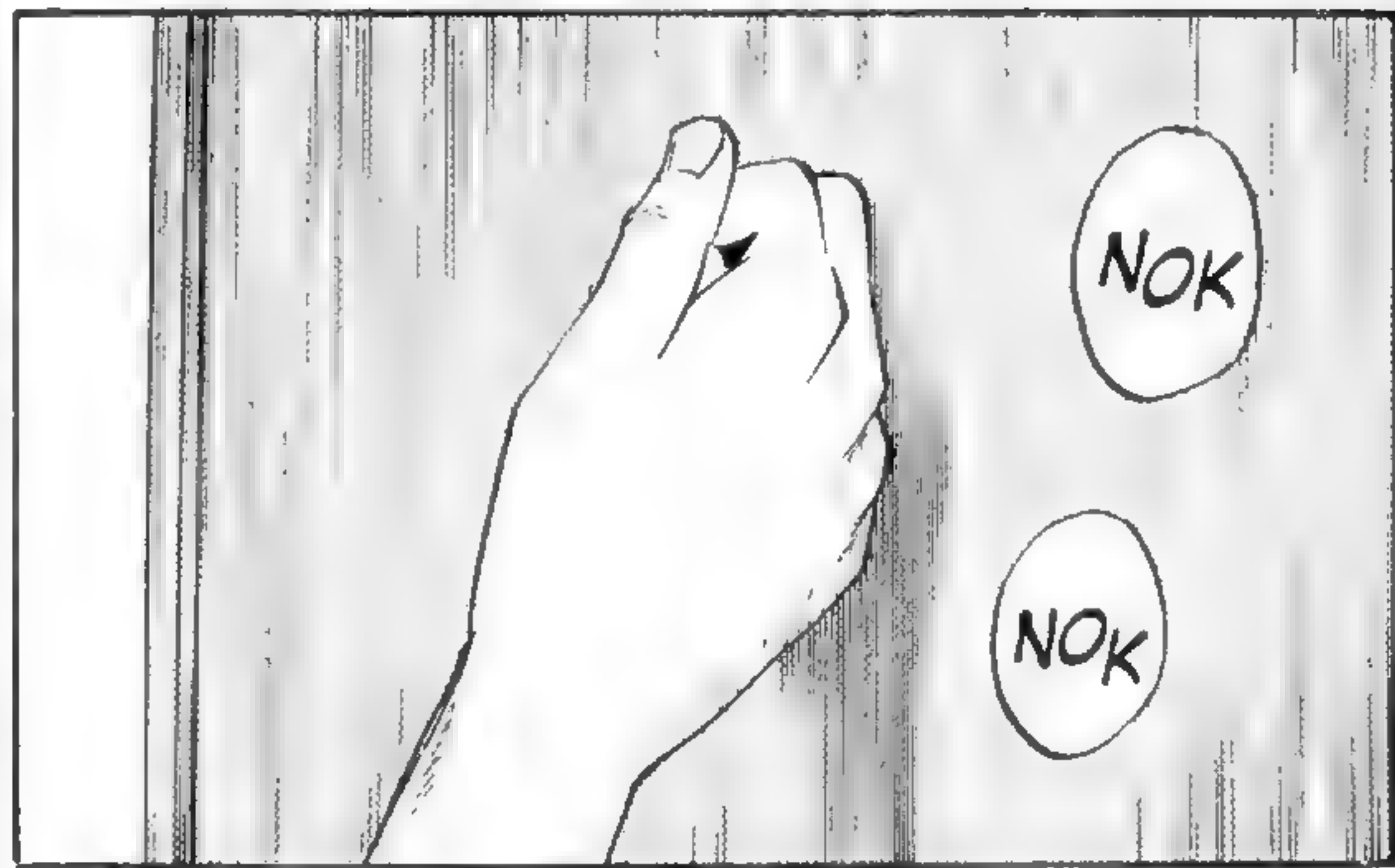


I'LL BE
OKAY.

...









THE ROOMS
HAVE GO
BOARDS?



NOT THE YOUNG
KIDS' ROOMS,
JUST THE ONES
FOR US
OLD-TIMERS.

YEP...



ZIP

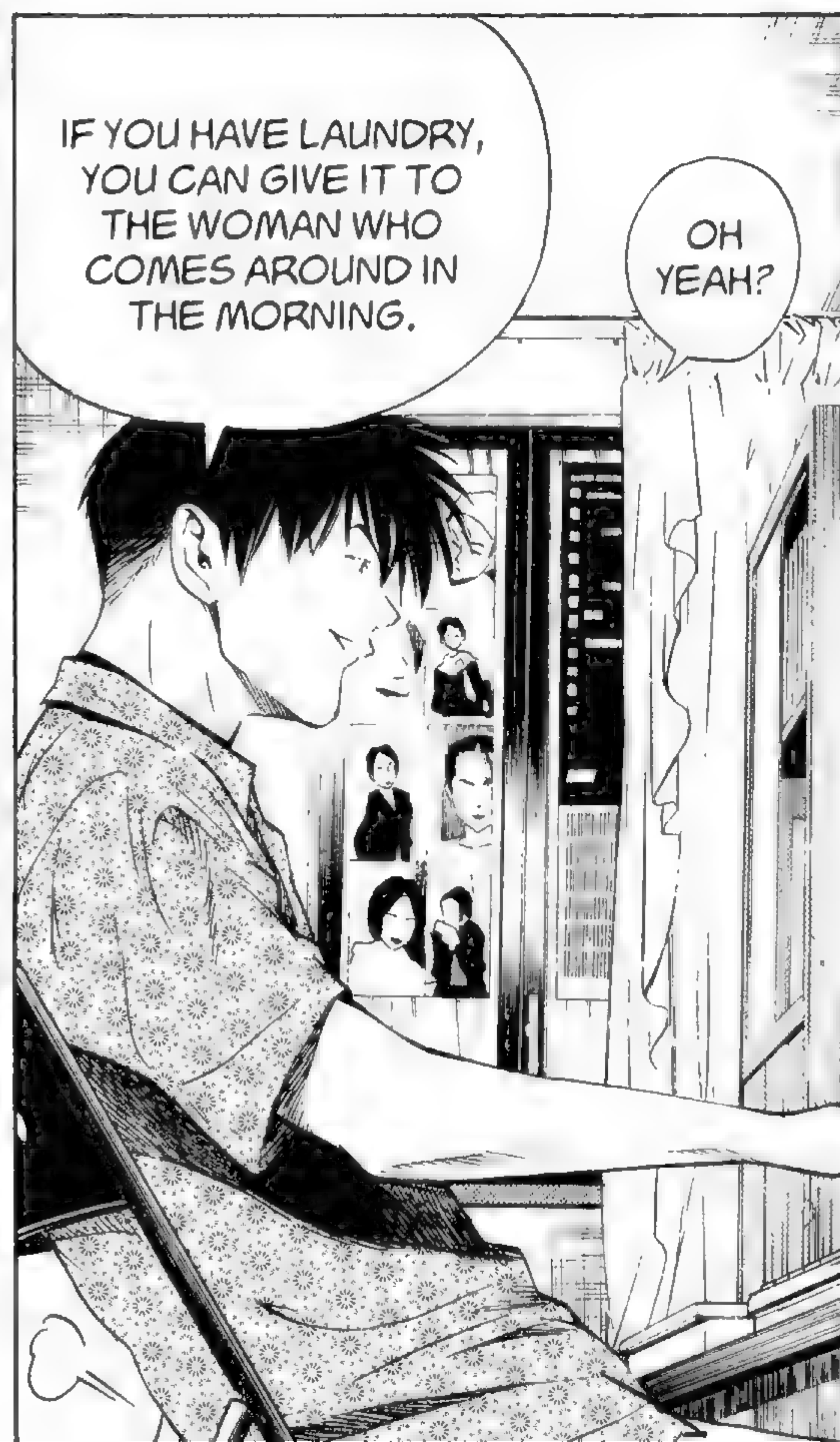
JUST NOW I
SAW THAT THE
LIGHTS WERE
OUT IN THE
TRAINING
ROOM.

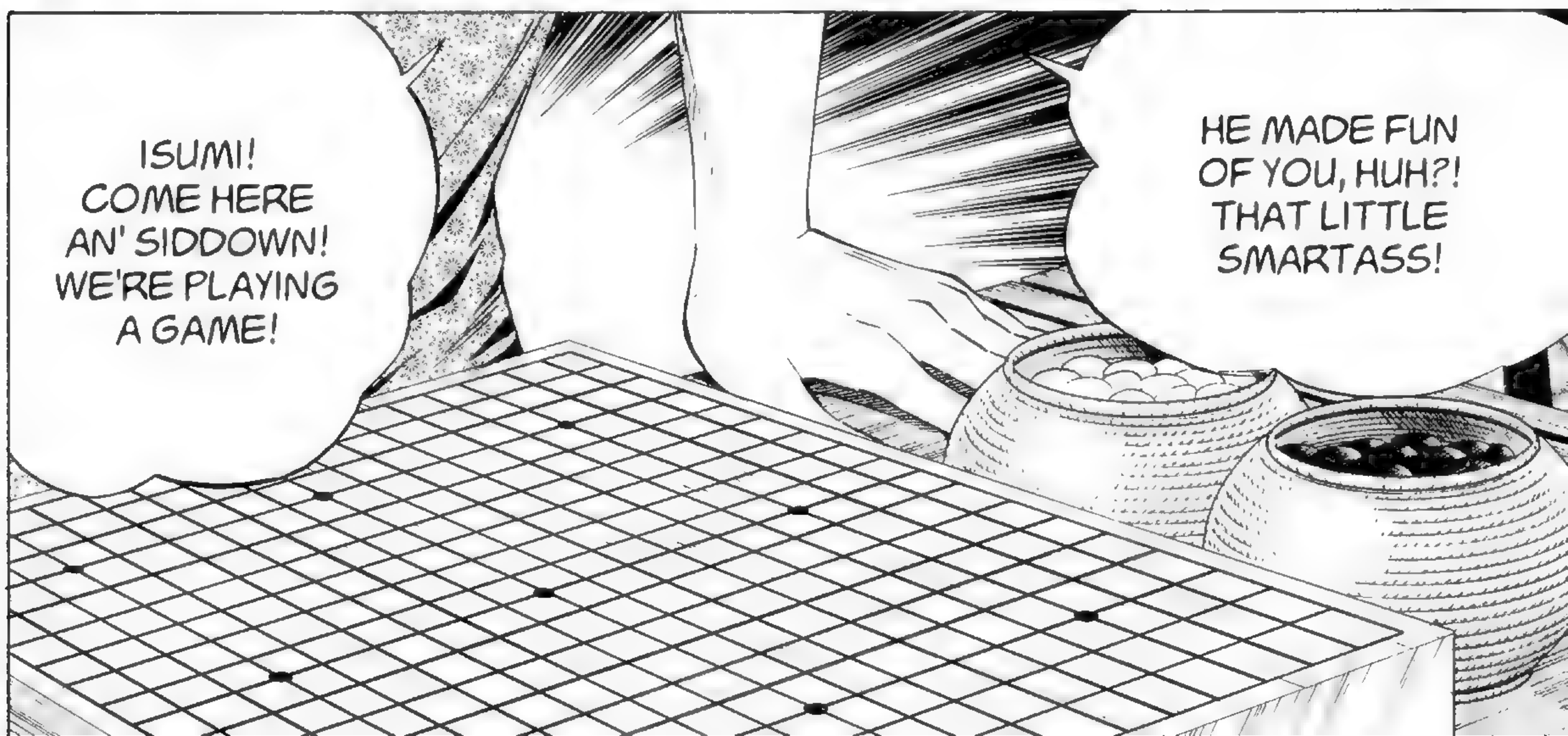


I'M GLAD I'M
HERE INSTEAD
OF THE HOTEL.
A BOARD IN
THE ROOM
MEANS WE CAN
STUDY AT
NIGHT TOO.



MAN!
SO YOU
ARE
SERIOUS!







...SO MR.
TAKAHASHI
AND I
PLAYED
EACH OTHER
FOR THE
FIRST TIME.



THERE
WAS SOME
FREE TIME
DURING
THE TRIP...

HIKARU NO GO
RESEARCH
TRIP TO THE
CHINESE GO
ASSOCIATION

③

YUMI
HOTTA



This is my
first time
playing
anybody!



But the other day
you were bragging
about being
15 kyū!

MR. TAKAHASHI
WAS SUCH A
WEAK PLAYER
THAT EVEN A
WEAK PLAYER
LIKE ME FOUND IT
EXASPERATING.

SOME PROS
LOOKED AT
OUR BOARD
AND
LAUGHED.



And my first
time playing
19x19.

Your
first
time?!

SO FAR
OUT OF
OUR
LEAGUE!

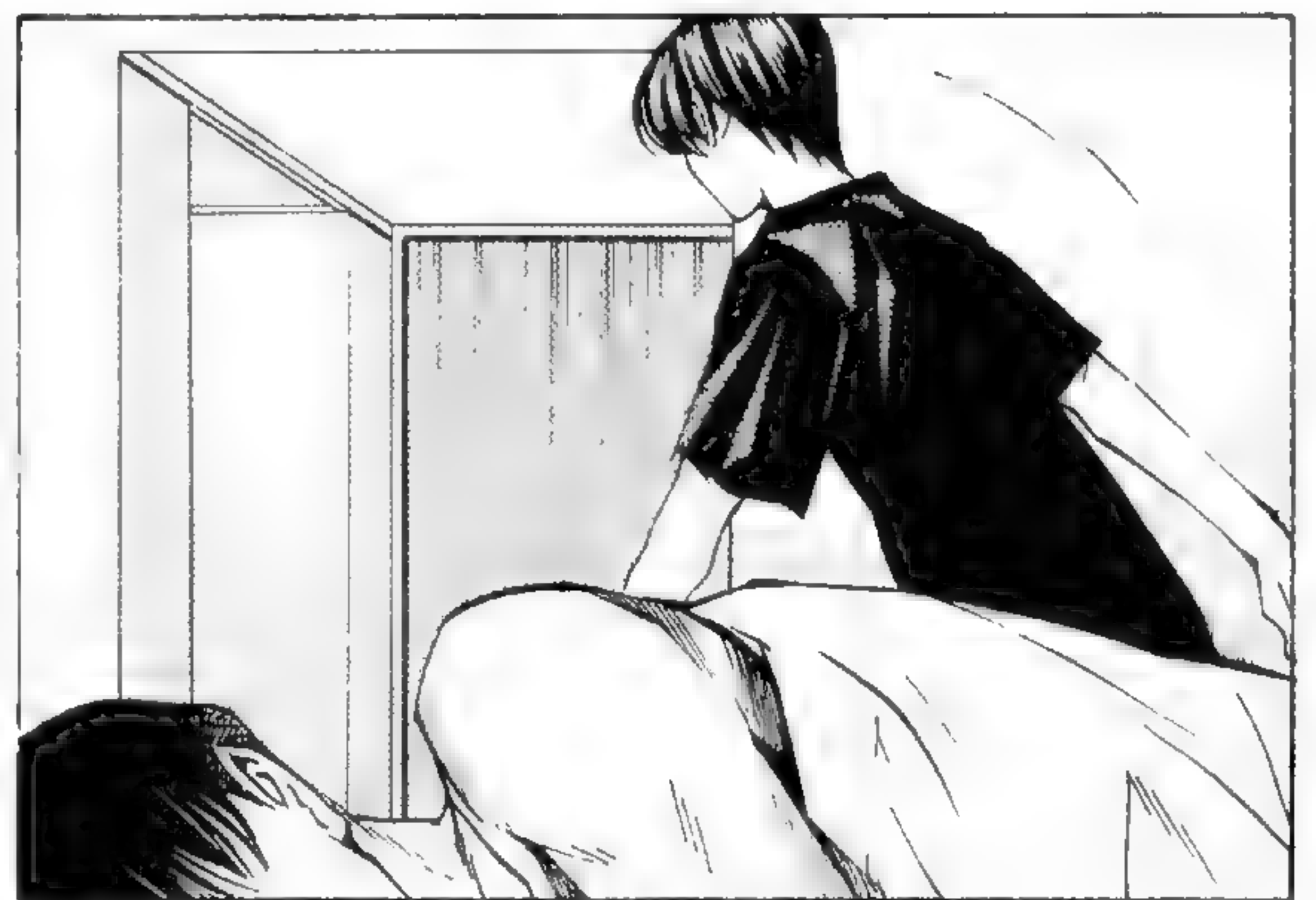


They're
playing a game
next to us.

You don't
even under-
stand
two-eyes.



Game 134
"Yang Hai's Advice"





DOES THAT MEAN HE THINKS I'M GOOD ENOUGH?

HE DIDN'T TELL ME TO CLEAR OUT.

IT WAS A
TOP PRO
PLAYING A
TEACHING
GAME
WITH ME.

LAST NIGHT'S
GAME WITH TWO
STONES AGAINST
YANG HAI WASN'T
ABOUT WINNING
OR LOSING.



ISUMI...



HE HAD
SOMETHING
AGAINST
LE PING,
THOUGH...

I'M GRATEFUL
SOMEONE LIKE
YANG HAI IS
WILLING TO
PLAY ME.



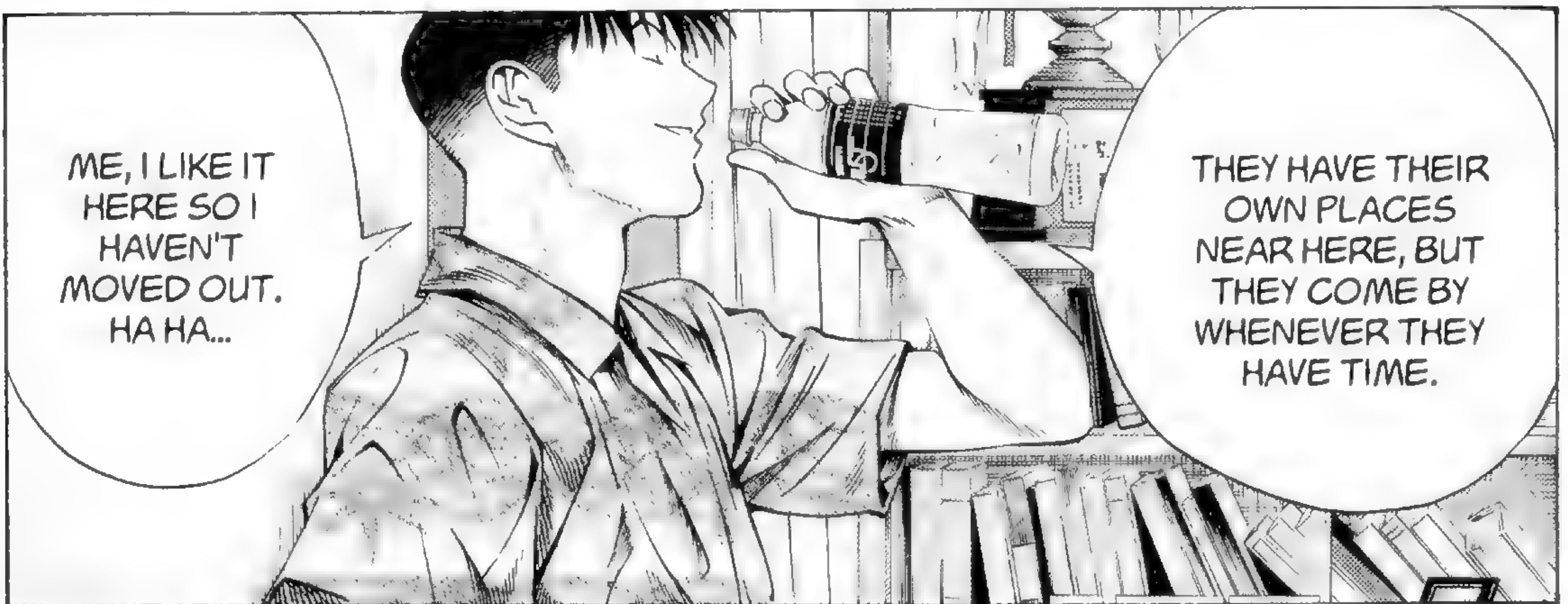




BOTH OF THEM
JUST GOT
BACK FROM
TOURNAMENTS
TODAY.

I WAS
SURPRISED.
THEY'RE CHINA'S
TOP PLAYERS—
EVEN I'D HEARD
OF THEM.

YES. AND
AFTER THAT
HWA SONG LI
JOINED THE
ANALYSIS.



ME, I LIKE IT
HERE SO I
HAVEN'T
MOVED OUT.
HA HA...

THEY HAVE THEIR
OWN PLACES
NEAR HERE, BUT
THEY COME BY
WHENEVER THEY
HAVE TIME.



YEAH... ONCE
YOU'RE PAST
30, THE
YOUNGER
ONES START
TAKING YOU
DOWN.



THE TOP
PLAYERS ARE
SO MUCH
YOUNGER
HERE IN
CHINA THAN
IN JAPAN.



TOURNAMENTS
IN CHINA ARE
TOUGHER THAN
IN JAPAN.

THE LIMITS
OF YOUR
PHYSICAL
ENDURANCE
START
AFFECTING
YOU.



HA HA...
TOMORROW'S
THE WEEKEND SO
I'M GAME TO STAY
UP AS LONG AS
YOU WANNA PLAY.

YES,
PLEASE!



IF YOU
SLACK OFF
IN YOUR
TEENS,
IT'S OVER.

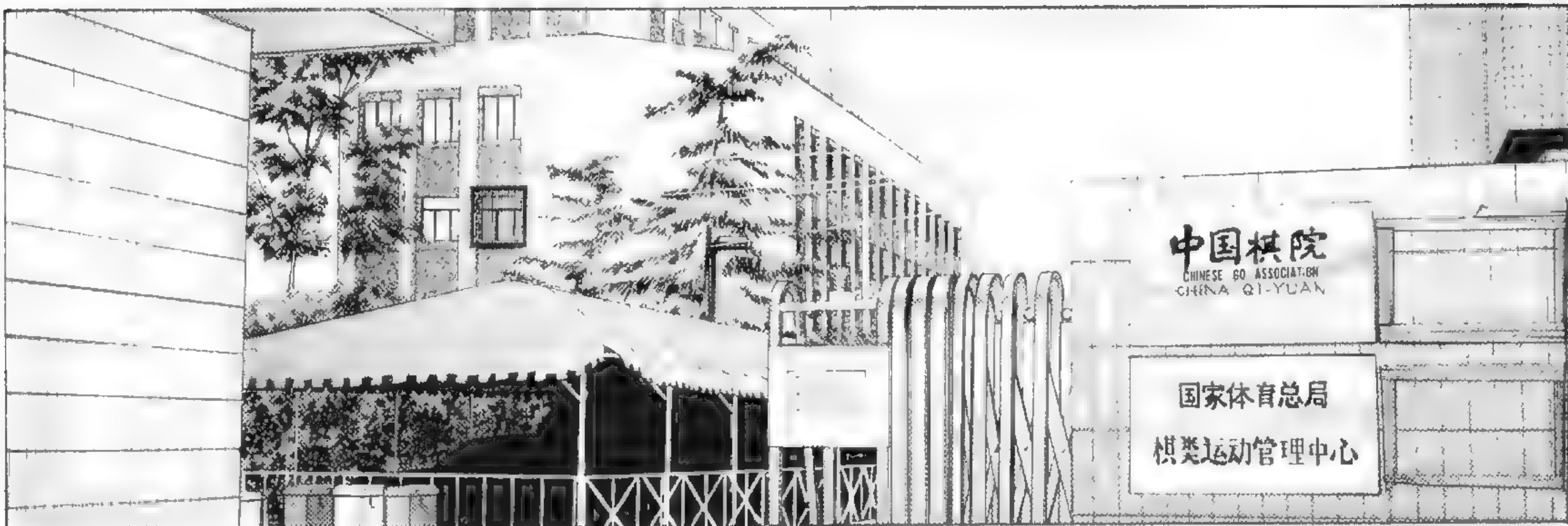
LE PING
IS SUCH
AN IDIOT!

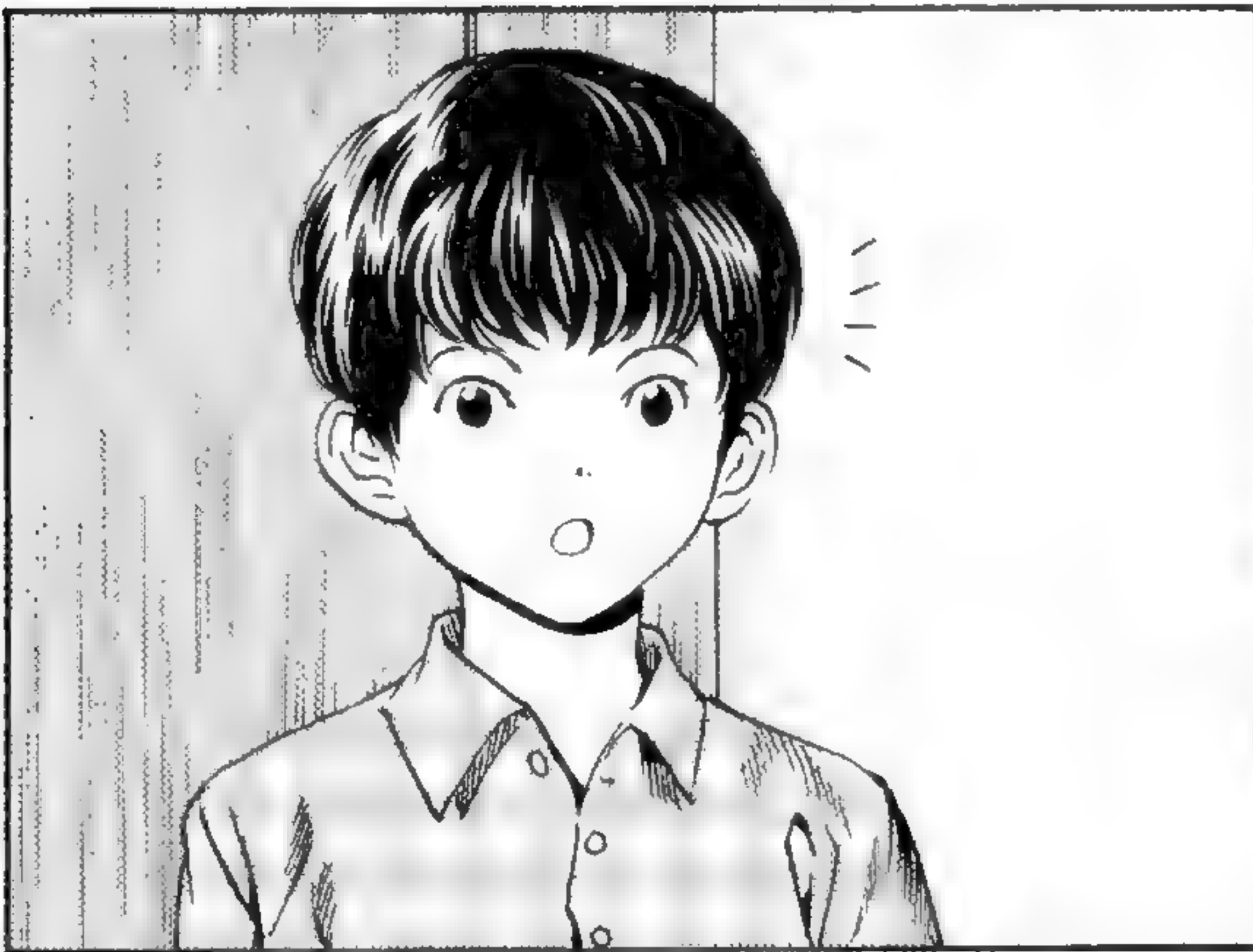


SO, YOU
WANNA
PLAY
AGAIN
TODAY?

LE PING?















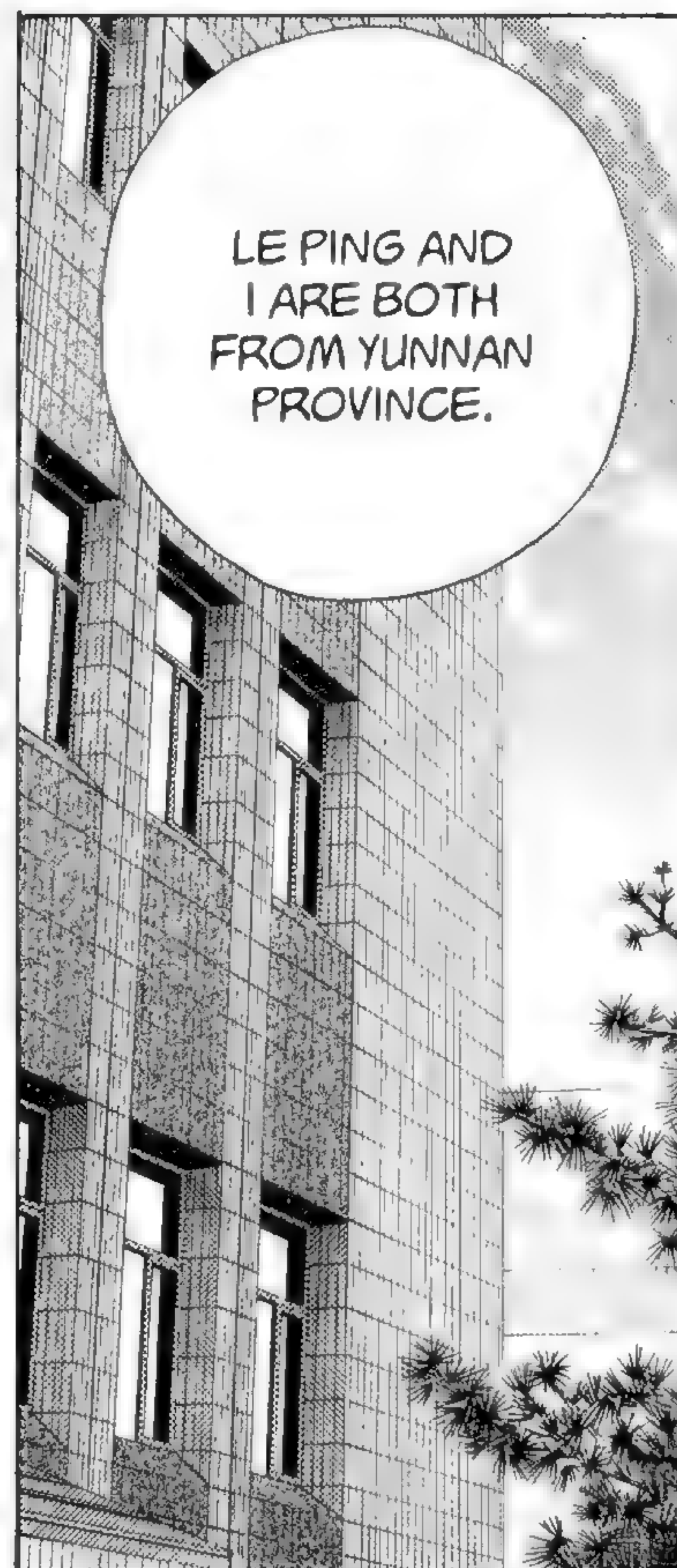
WHAT WERE
YOU TALKING
ABOUT?

UM...



THEY WERE
ANXIOUS TO
KNOW HOW THEIR
PRECIOUS ONLY
CHILD WAS
DOING.

WHEN I WAS AT A
TOURNAMENT THERE,
LE PING'S FATHER
AND MOTHER CAME
TO ME AND ASKED
ABOUT LE PING.



LE PING AND
I ARE BOTH
FROM YUNNAN
PROVINCE.



I GUESS
BEIJING'S
LIKE AN
AMUSE-
MENT
PARK
FOR A
COUNTRY
KID.

WHEN THEY
CALL THE
CHINESE GO
ASSOCIATION,
THEY HAVE A
HARD TIME
REACHING LE
PING SINCE
HE'S ALWAYS
OUT GOOFING
OFF.

THEY'RE
BOTH BUSY
WORKING
AND CAN'T
COME
VISIT.

YUNNAN
PROVINCE
IS A LONG
WAY FROM
BEIJING.



NOT AT ALL.

SORRY...
GUESS
I'M USING
YOU.

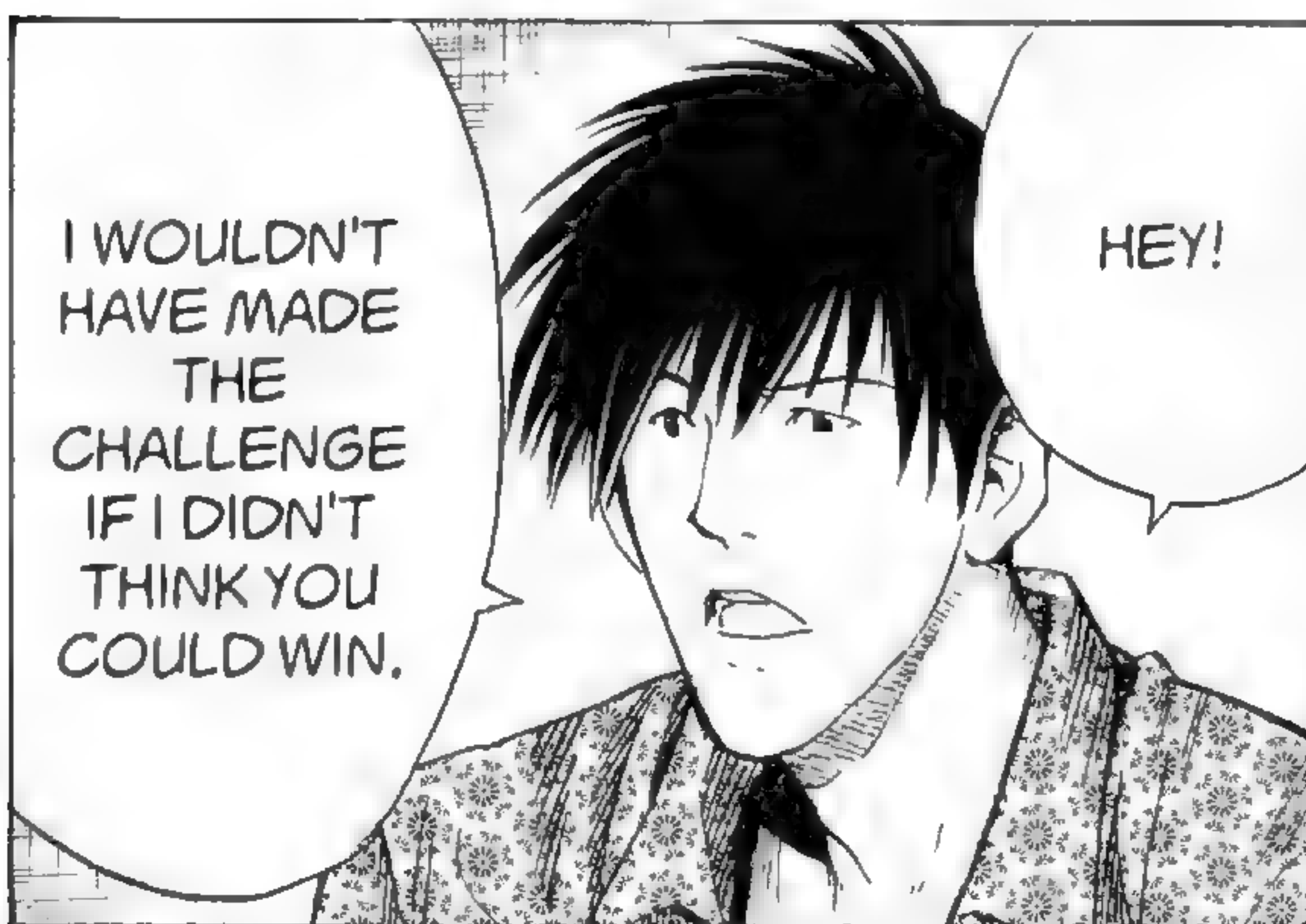
ISUMI, CAN
YOU PUT HIM
THROUGH
THE WRINGER
AND TEACH
HIM A
LESSON?
THEN MAYBE
HE'LL GET
SERIOUS.

IF HIS
TRACK
RECORD
DOESN'T
IMPROVE
IT'S BACK
TO THE
COUNTRY
FOR HIM.



HE'S THE
REASON
YOU SPEND
EVENINGS
PLAYING
GO WITH
ME.

AND IF YOU
ARE, THEN I
HAVE TO
THANK LE PING.



I WOULDN'T
HAVE MADE
THE
CHALLENGE
IF I DIDN'T
THINK YOU
COULD WIN.

HEY!



...I HAVE TO
ACTUALLY
BEAT
THE KID,
DON'T I.

BUT FOR
YOUR
EFFORTS
TO PAY
OFF...

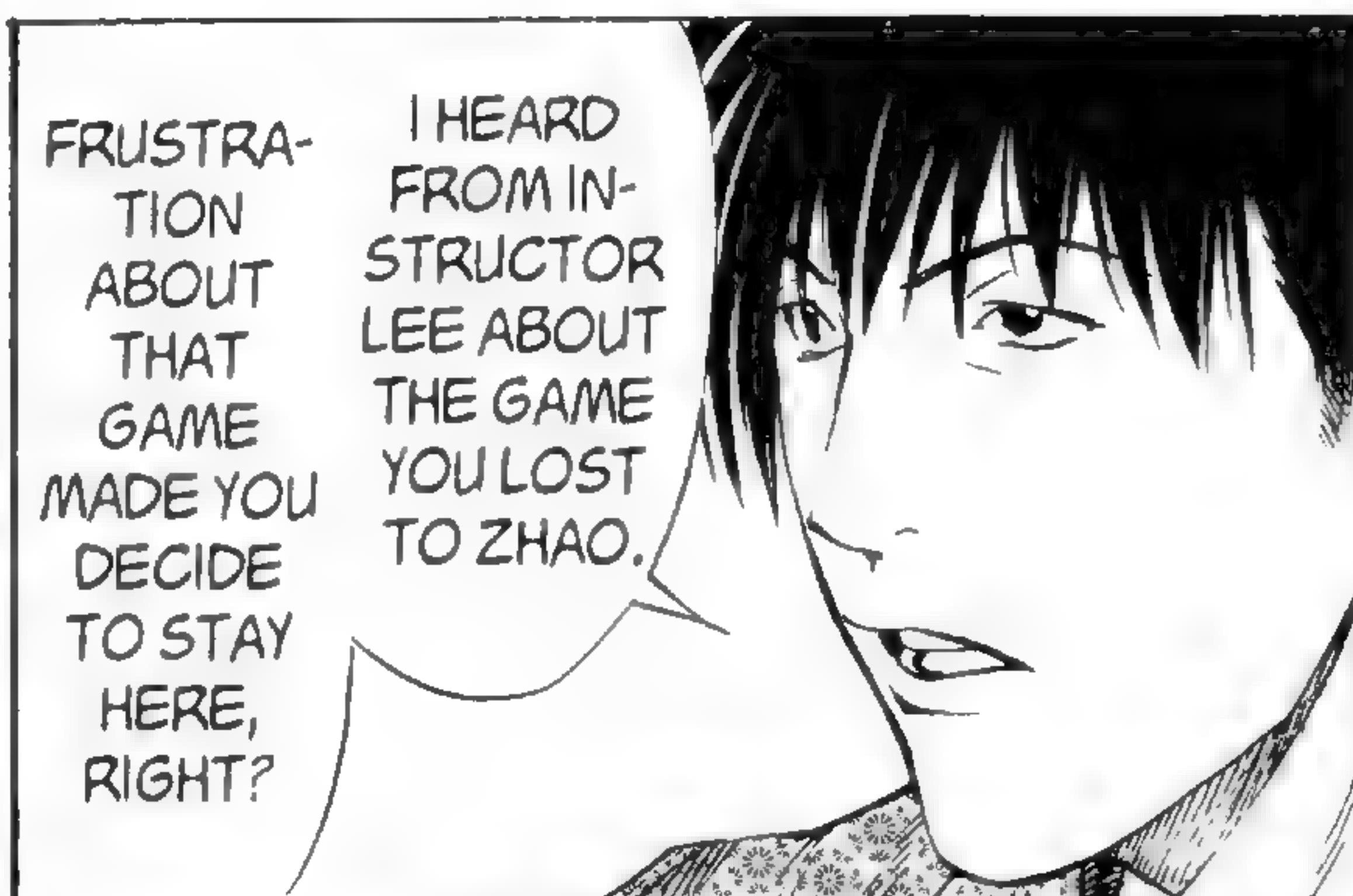


ALSO... TO
BE HONEST,
I UNDER-
ESTIMATED
HIM.

MAYBE I
WAS TOO
CONCERNED
ABOUT
LOSING TO
A LITTLE KID
FOR THE
SECOND DAY
IN A ROW.

I'D LOST
TO ZHAO
THE DAY
BEFORE.

TELL ME
ABOUT THE
GAME YOU
LOST TO
HIM.





DURING ONE MATCH I MADE A BIG MISTAKE AND LOST MY RHYTHM.



I...GOT DISTRACTED BY THINGS OTHERS SAID.



HMM...



IT TOOK ME TOO LONG TO RECOVER AND I WENT ON TO LOSE THREE IN A ROW. THAT WAS FATAL.



FORTUNATELY, HERE YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY CHINESE SPEAKERS, SO YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT ANYONE'S SAYING.

SO YOU'RE NOT GOOD AT CONTROLLING YOUR FEELINGS. THAT IS A PROBLEM. YOU HAVE TO STOP WORRYING ABOUT THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.




DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM!!

DID YOU HEAR ME?!


WHEN THEY LOOK IN MY DIRECTION AND TALK...

UH... BUT THEN I'M MORE CONSCIOUS OF WHAT THEY MIGHT BE SAYING.



THAT'S THE THING
YOU'VE REALLY
GOTTA LEARN...
TO LOOK ONLY AT
THE STONES.
YOU CAN DO THIS
THROUGH SELF-
OBSERVATION
AND TRAINING.

WHETHER IT'S
ANGER, PANIC,
DOUBT, TENSION,
NERVOUSNESS
OR PRESSURE...
YOU CAN'T LET
YOUR EMOTIONS
THROW YOU!




IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT
YOUR GENERAL
NATURE IS LIKE,
YOU CAN ACQUIRE
THE SKILL TO
OVERCOME
DISTRACTION.



IF I CAN
CONTROL
MY
FEEL-
INGS...

I'VE NEVER
THOUGHT
OF IT LIKE
THAT.



...I CAN
ACQUIRE?!

SKILL...



IF YOU CAN DO
THAT, YOU MIGHT
JUST BECOME
THE POWER-
HOUSE PLAYER
YOU HAVE THE
POTENTIAL TO
BE.



A MATCH
BETWEEN LE PING
AND ISUMI?

WHAT
ABOUT IT?



INSTRUCTOR
LEE SAID ISUMI IS
STAYING AT A
HOTEL, BUT...

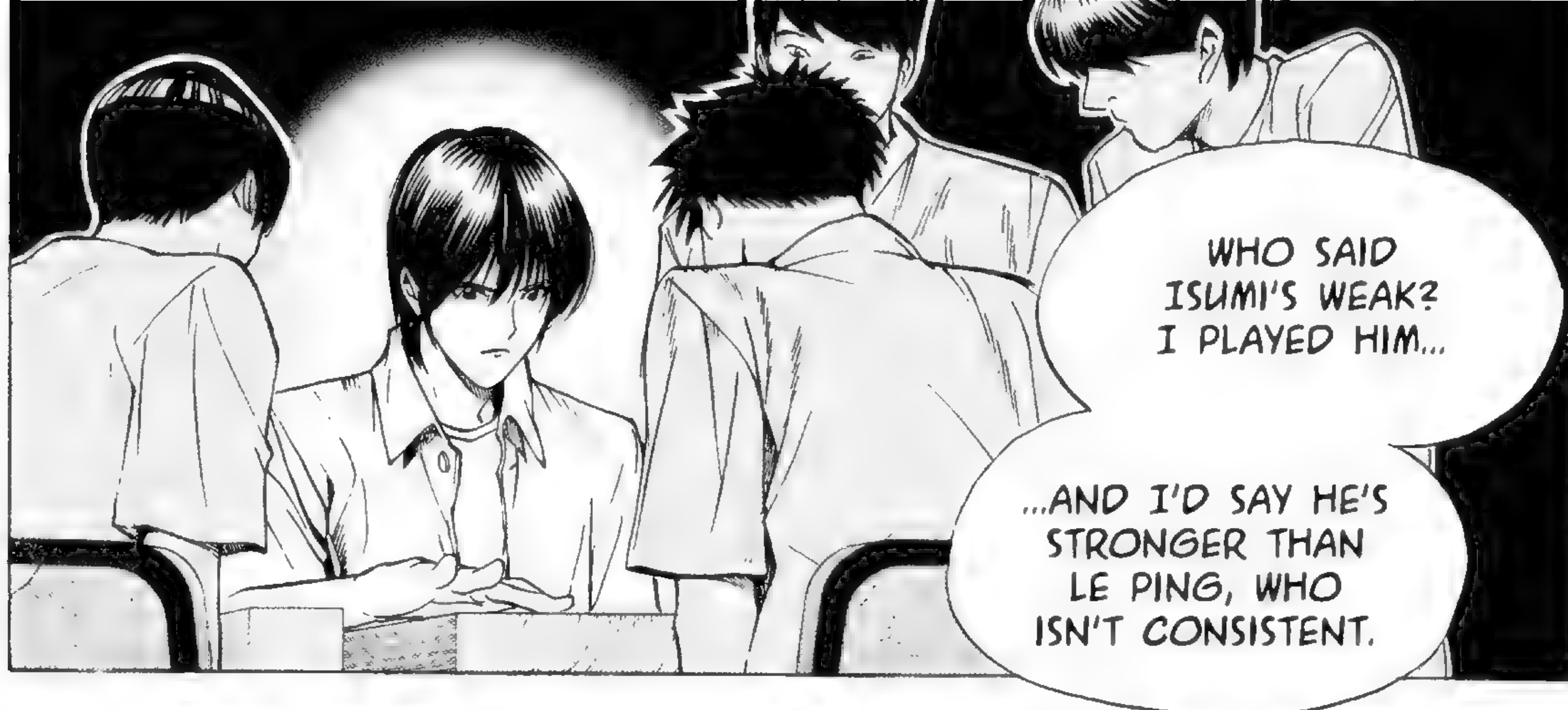
YANG HAI IS
TRAINING ISUMI?
HOW COME?



I HEAR HE'S
STAYING WITH
YANG HAI.

SHHH...

...I SAW HIM
TAKING A
SHOWER HERE.



WHO SAID
ISUMI'S WEAK?
I PLAYED HIM...

...AND I'D SAY HE'S
STRONGER THAN
LE PING, WHO
ISN'T CONSISTENT.



YEAH...
HE SEEMED
KINDA NERVOUS
BEFORE.

ISUMI'S GAINING
COMPOSURE.



I HEARD CHEN YI
LOST TO ISUMI
IN A LEAGUE
MATCH.





Game 135 "Isumi vs. Le Ping"







ARE WE
OKAY ON
TIME?



...1:40
SHARP.

MIGHT AS
WELL CHILL
OUT HERE
TILL THEN.



YEAH,
WE'RE FINE.
THE GAME
STARTS AT...



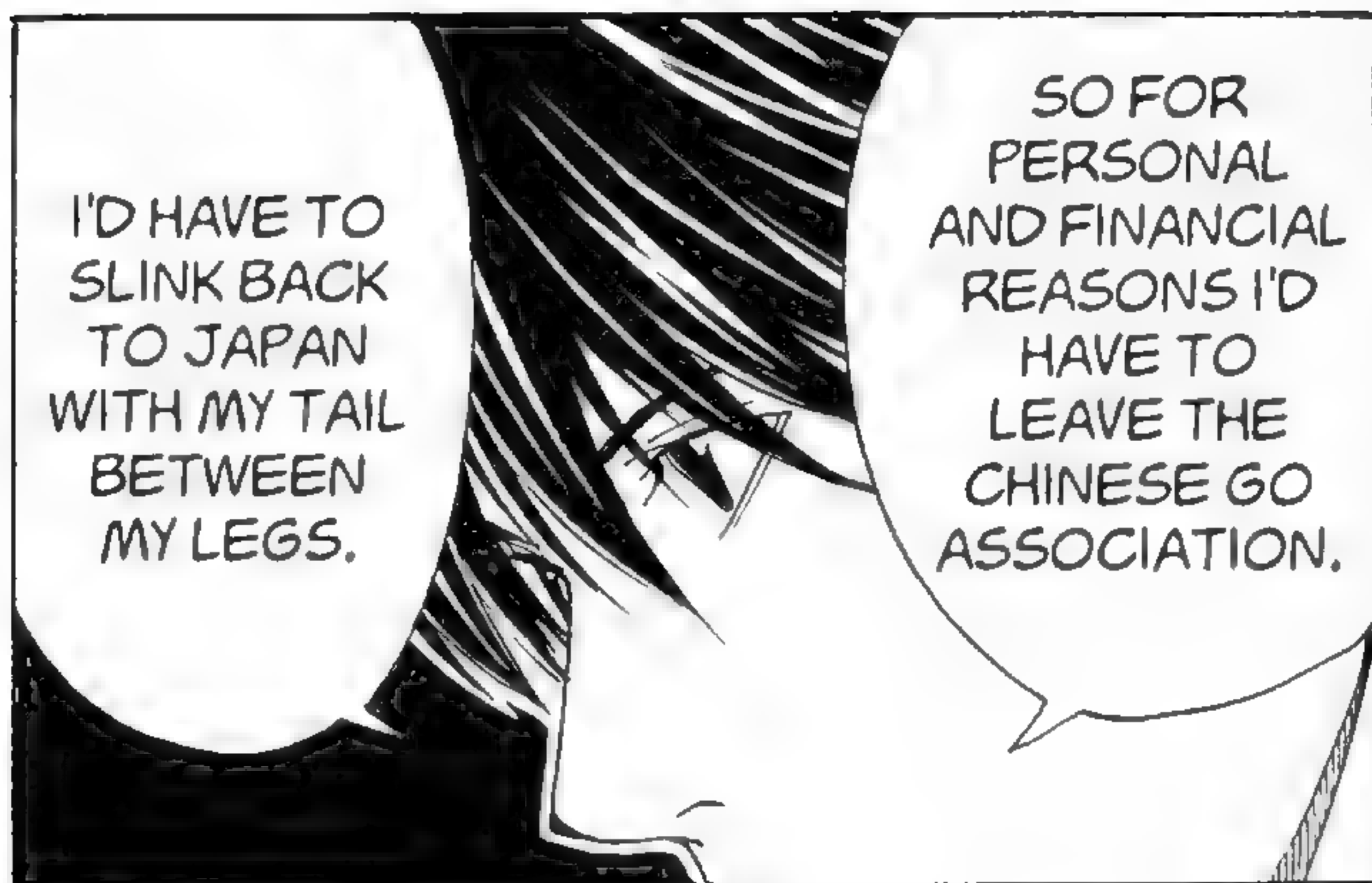
HARDLY.

IF I LOSE,
I WON'T BE
ABLE TO
LOOK YOU
IN THE
FACE.



FOR YOU THIS
IS JUST A GAME,
SO YOU CAN
JUST RELAX
AND PLAY.

THE WEEK
WENT BY
QUICKLY,
DON'TCHA
THINK?



I'D HAVE TO
SLINK BACK
TO JAPAN
WITH MY TAIL
BETWEEN
MY LEGS.

SO FOR
PERSONAL
AND FINANCIAL
REASONS I'D
HAVE TO
LEAVE THE
CHINESE GO
ASSOCIATION.



BESIDES,
IF LE PING
BEATS ME
HE'LL LOOK
DOWN ON ME
EVEN MORE
THAN HE
ALREADY
DOES.

AND I DON'T
HAVE THE
MONEY TO
STAY IN A
HOTEL FOR
LONG.

I
WOULDN'T
FEEL
COM-
FORTABLE
STAYING
ON HERE,
IN YOUR
ROOM.



HEY, HEY!
YOU FEEL
THAT MUCH
PRES-
SURE?!

MAN, YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL!



...I CAN
PROCEED
CALMLY,
AT MY OWN
PACE.

ONCE I
CREATE
THIS OTHER
SELF WITHIN
MY MIND...

I HAVE, ACTUALLY.
I'M UNDER
PRESSURE, BUT I'M
ALSO OBSERVING
MYSELF UNDER
PRESSURE FROM
THE STANDPOINT
OF AN ONLOOKER.



OKAY.
GUESS
IT'S TIME
TO GO.







YANG
HAI...



ON TOP OF THAT,
I MADE HIM THINK
THE GAME WOULD
START TEN MINUTES
EARLIER.
HE'S ALL WOUND UP
FROM WAITING.



TO HIM, IT
MIGHT LOOK LIKE
I'M CONFIDENTLY
ADVISING YOU ON
A STRATEGY
TO USE
AGAINST
HIM.

HE
SEES
US CHAT-
TING
TOGETH-
ER.



DON'T
EVER DO
THAT
AGAIN!

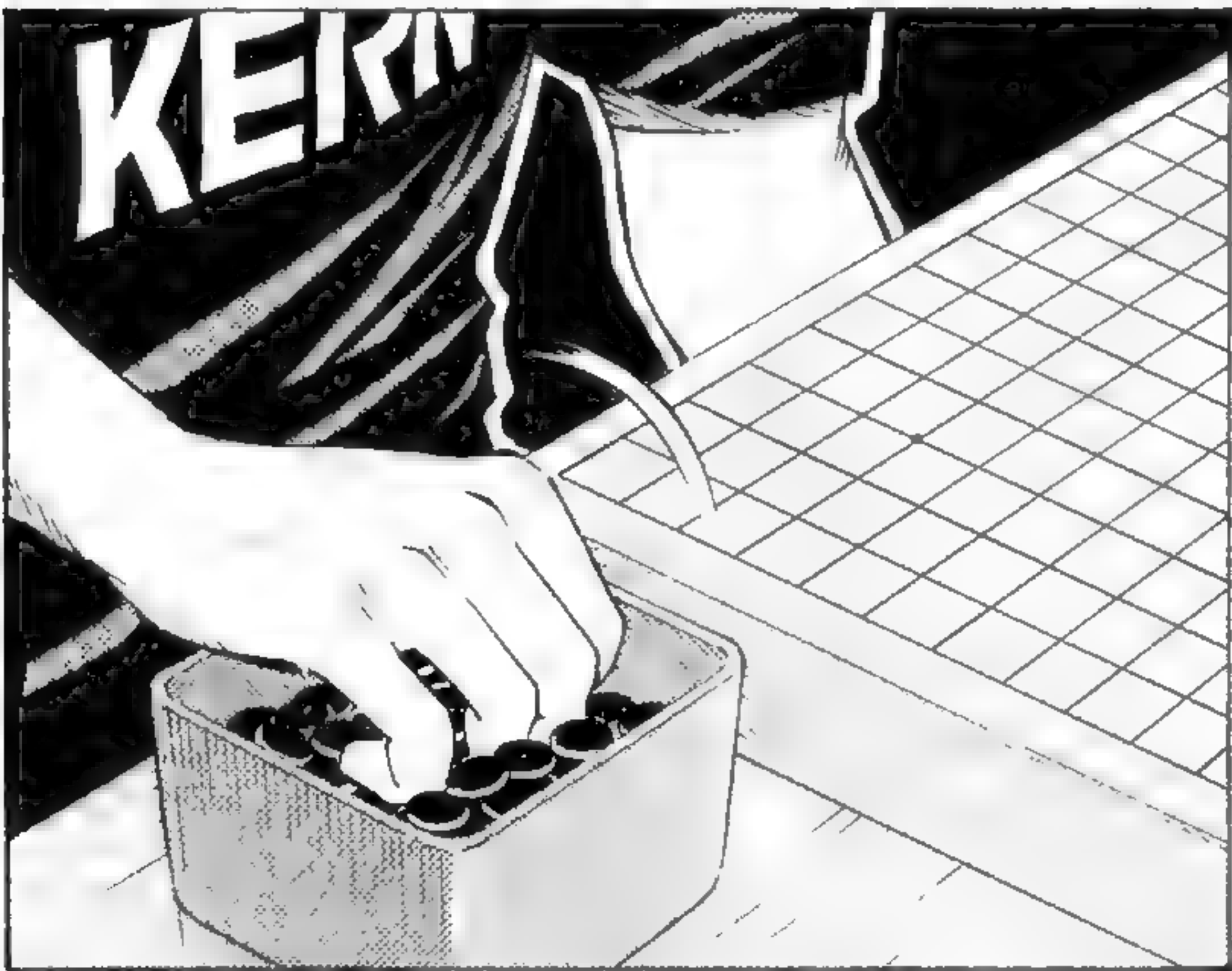


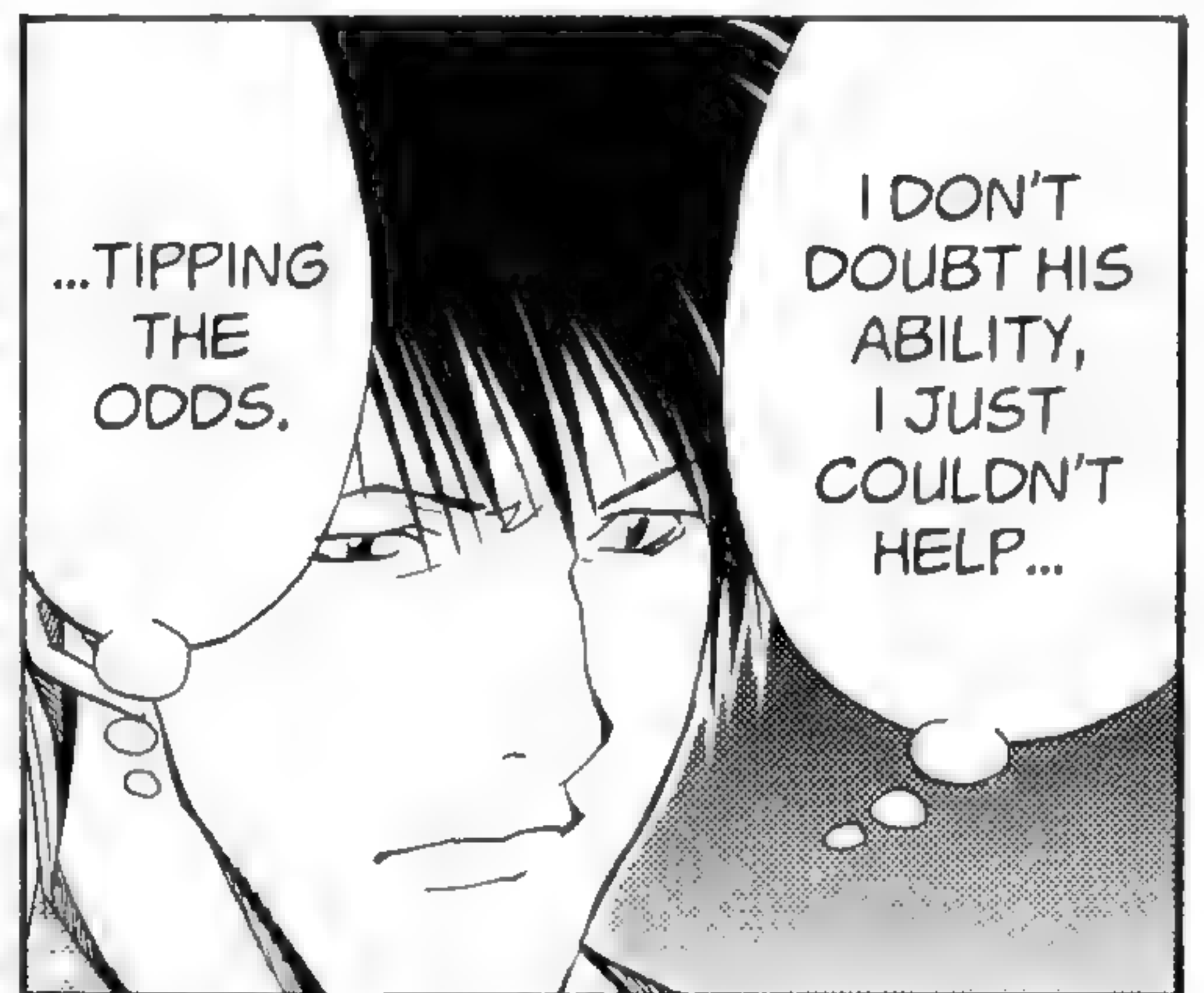
YANG
HAI!

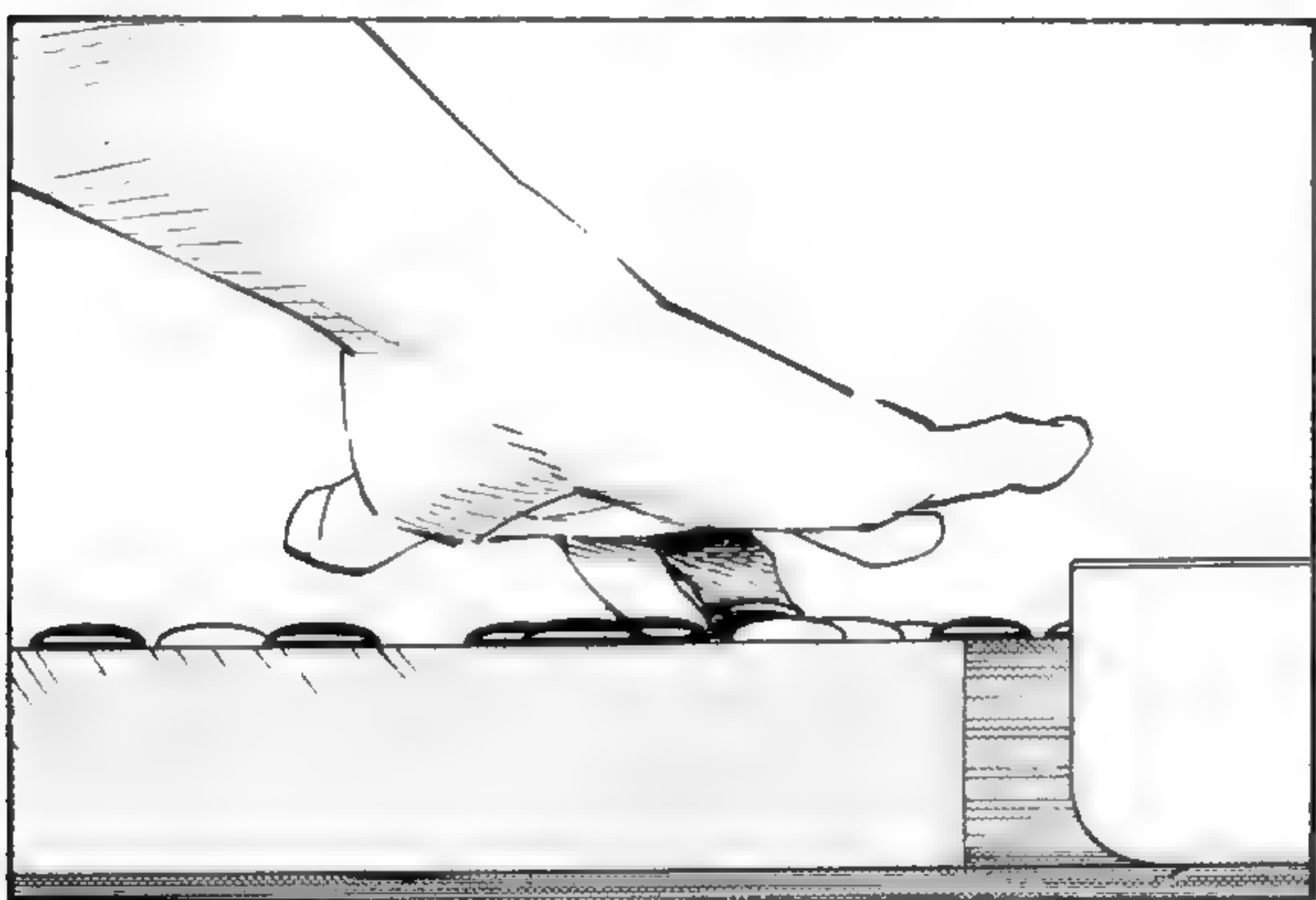
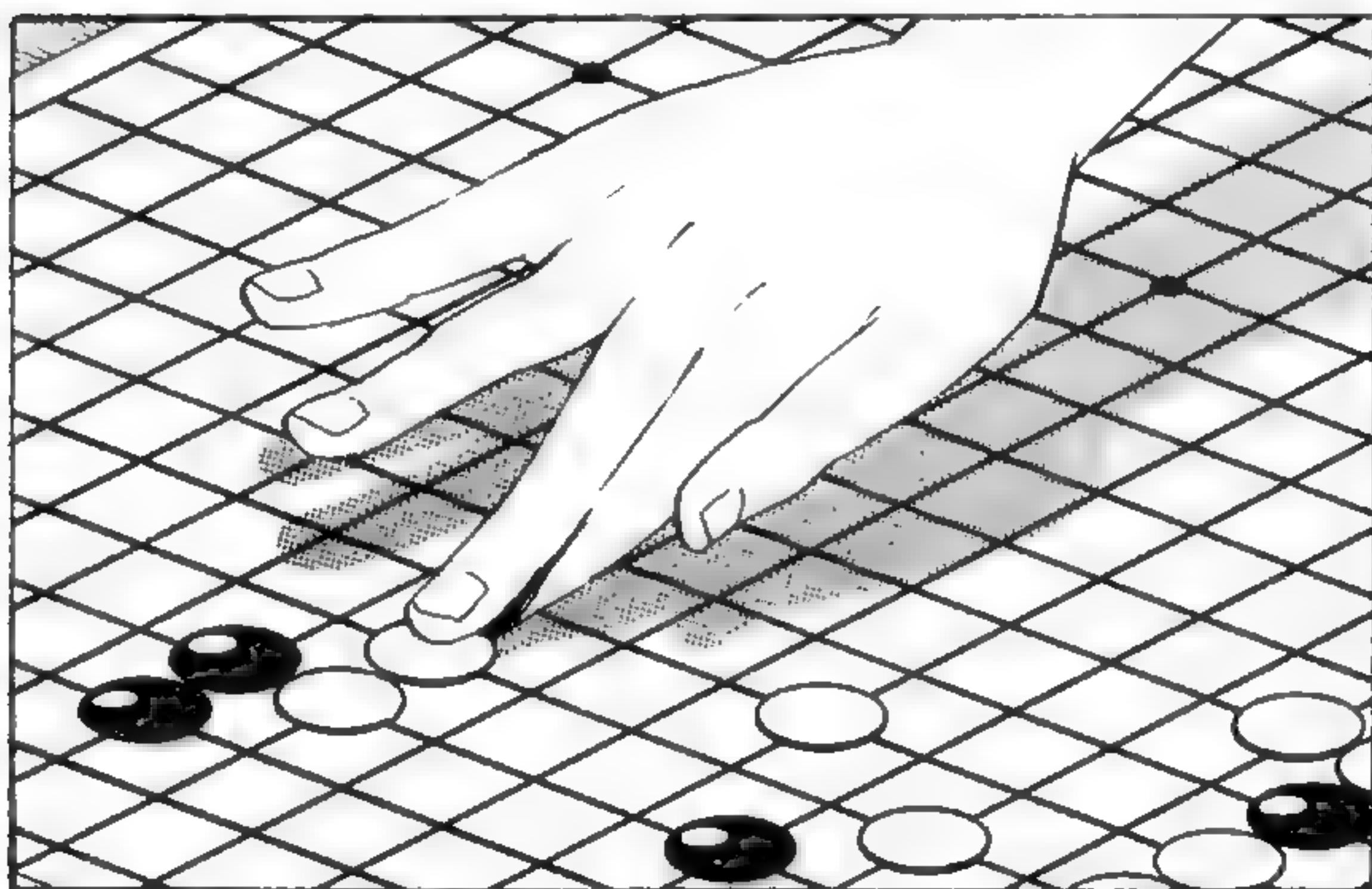
YOU KNOW HOW
A RATTLED MIND CAN
AFFECT THE OUTCOME
OF A GAME!
BUT BY TURNING
THE TABLES...







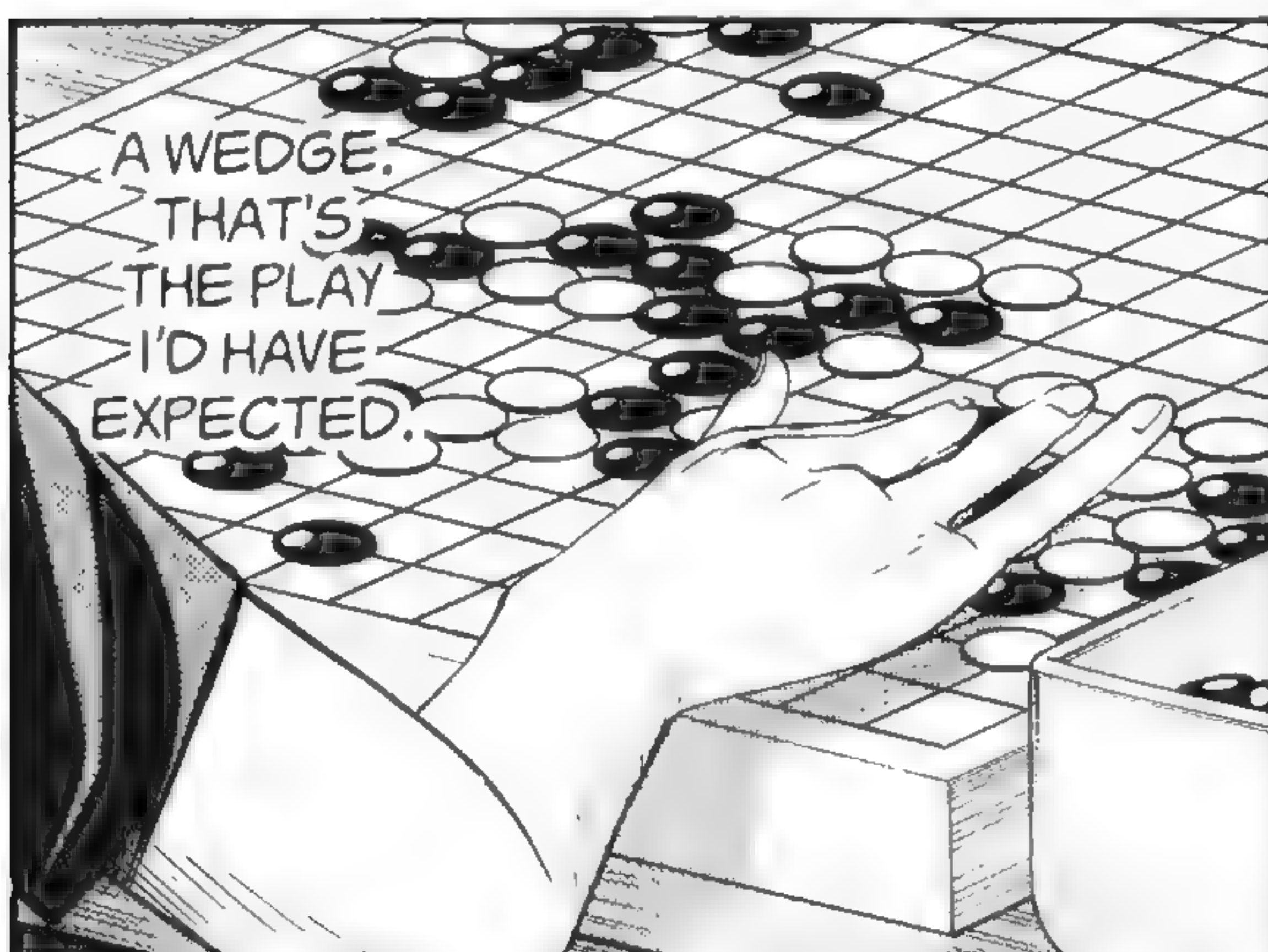




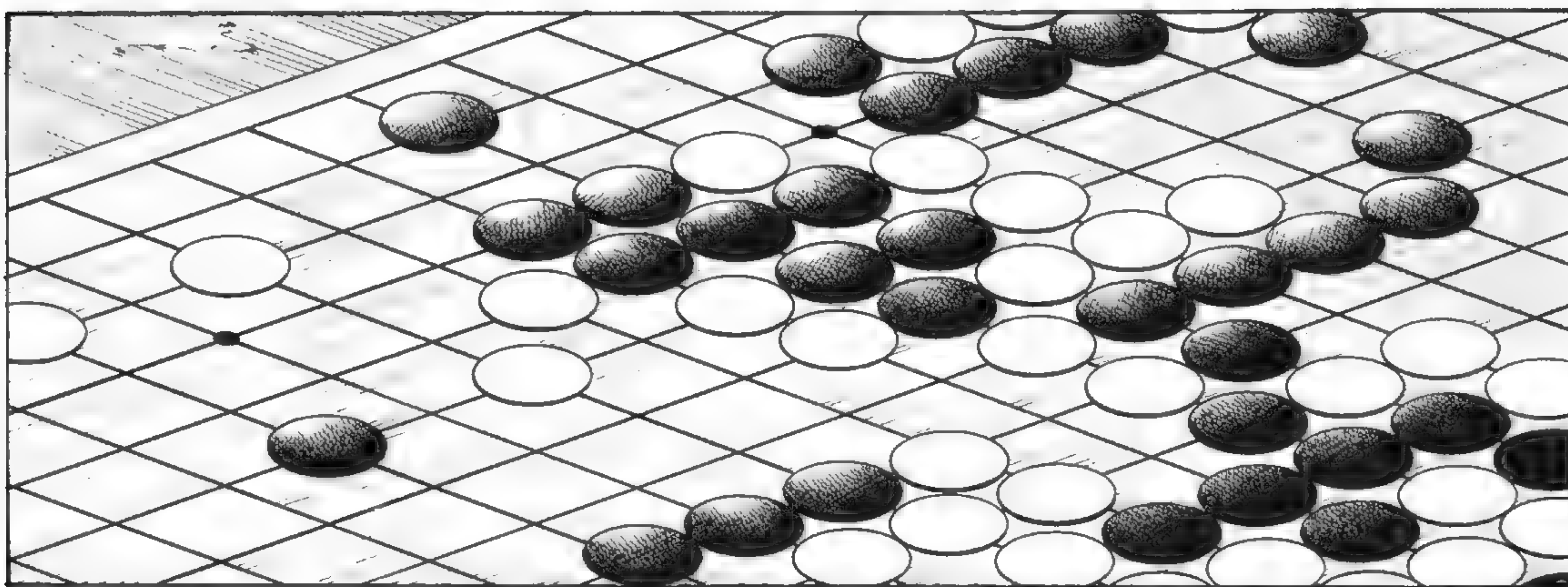


LE PING WILL
DEFEND
AGAINST THAT,
OF COURSE.
BUT ISUMI'S
INSIDE HANE
IS A PRETTY
POWERFUL
MOVE.

THERE'S STILL
WEAKNESS IN THE
POSITION IN THE
LOWER RIGHT.
ISUMI PLANS TO
JUMP ACROSS
THE KNIGHT'S
MOVE AND CUT.



A WEDGE.
THAT'S
THE PLAY
I'D HAVE
EXPECTED.



HE'S
CALM.

...HE MADE
CALM
DELIBERATE
MOVES
REGARDLESS
OF HOW THE
GAME WAS
GOING.

EVERY TIME
I PLAYED
ISUMI...



...HE'LL
ALWAYS
HAVE A
VITAL EDGE
GOING IN.

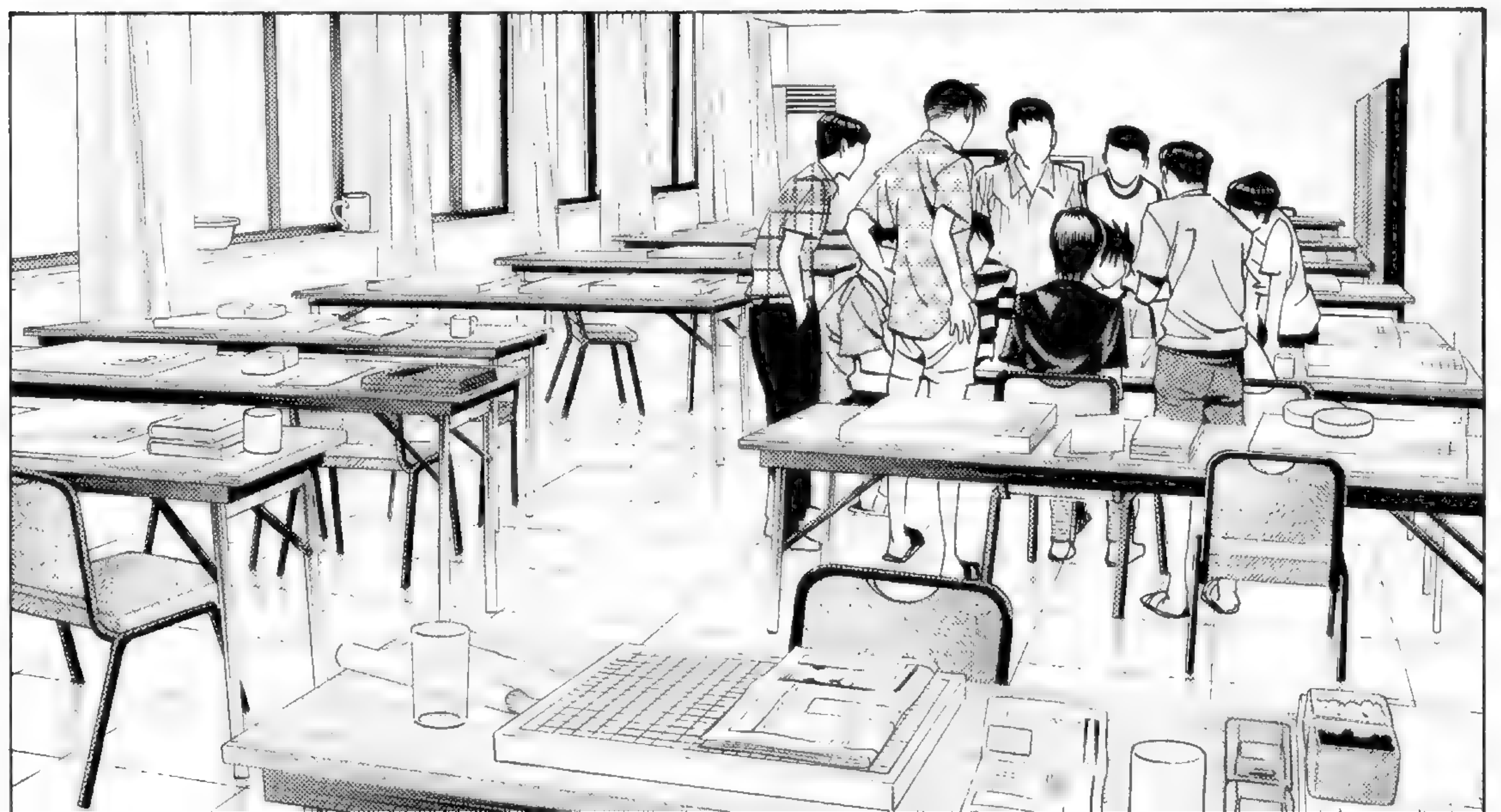
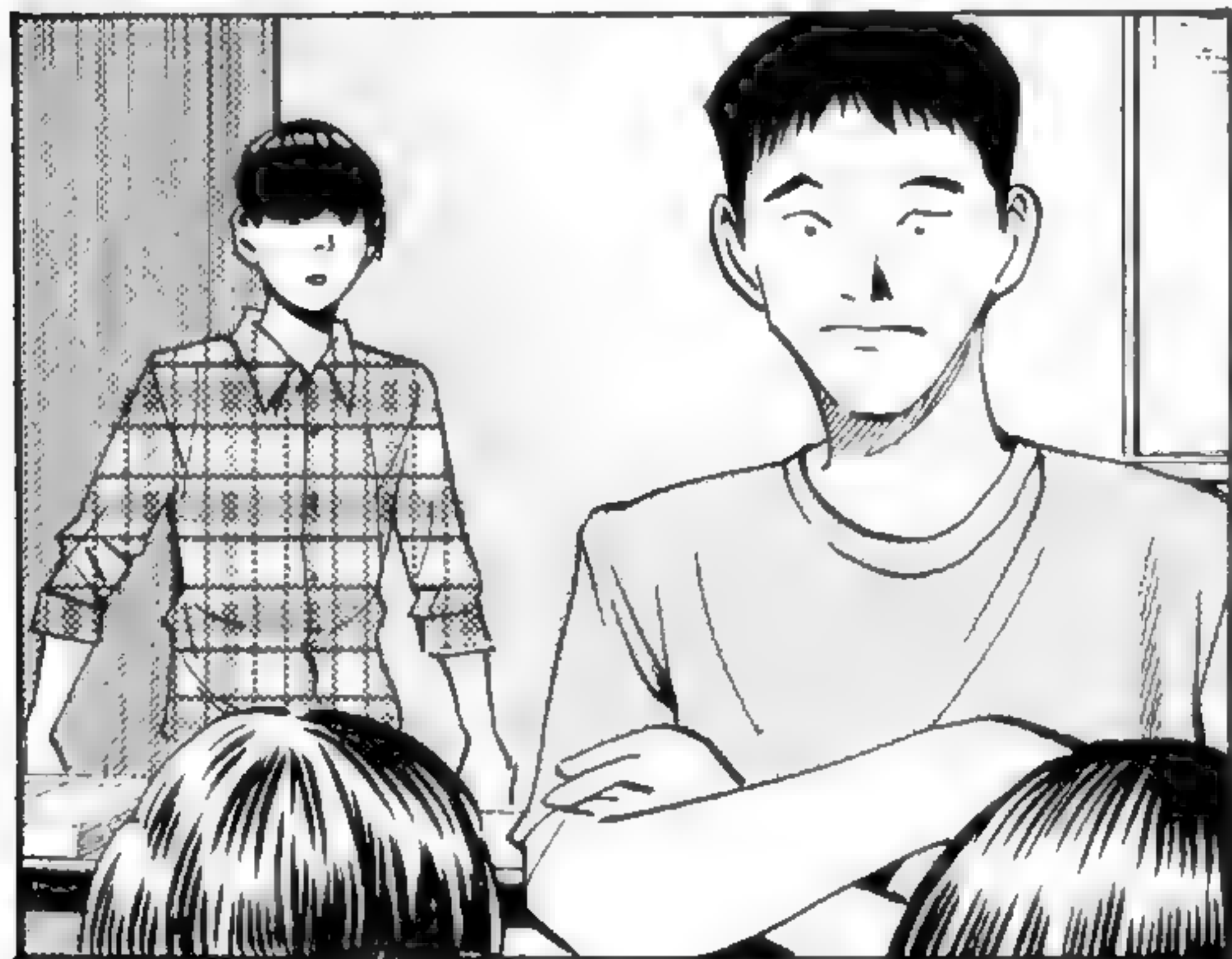
IF HE CAN
MAINTAIN
THAT IN
MATCH
PLAY...



...A
CLEVER
TACTICAL
MOVE IN
THE END-
GAME.

HMM...
LE PING
FOUND...







STILL,
LOOKS
LIKE HE'S
CLEARED
HIS FIRST
HURDLE.



...BUT IT'S
BOUND TO
TAKE MORE
TIME TO
MASTER IT.

IT'S A
SKILL HE
CAN
ACQUIRE...



LE PING, YOUR
PLAYS IN THE
UPPER AREA WERE
TOO TIMID.

YOU SHOULD
HAVE GONE
AFTER HIM MORE
AGGRESSIVELY.

IT'S THE END.



ISUMI WON BY
TWO AND A
HALF POINTS.





[Note: Kyoko Fukada = Japanese actress/singer, nicknamed Fukakyon.]





LE PING'S BEEN
GLUED TO ISUMI
RECENTLY, STUDYING
ALL THE TIME.



I HAVE TO
THANK ISUMI,
THEN!

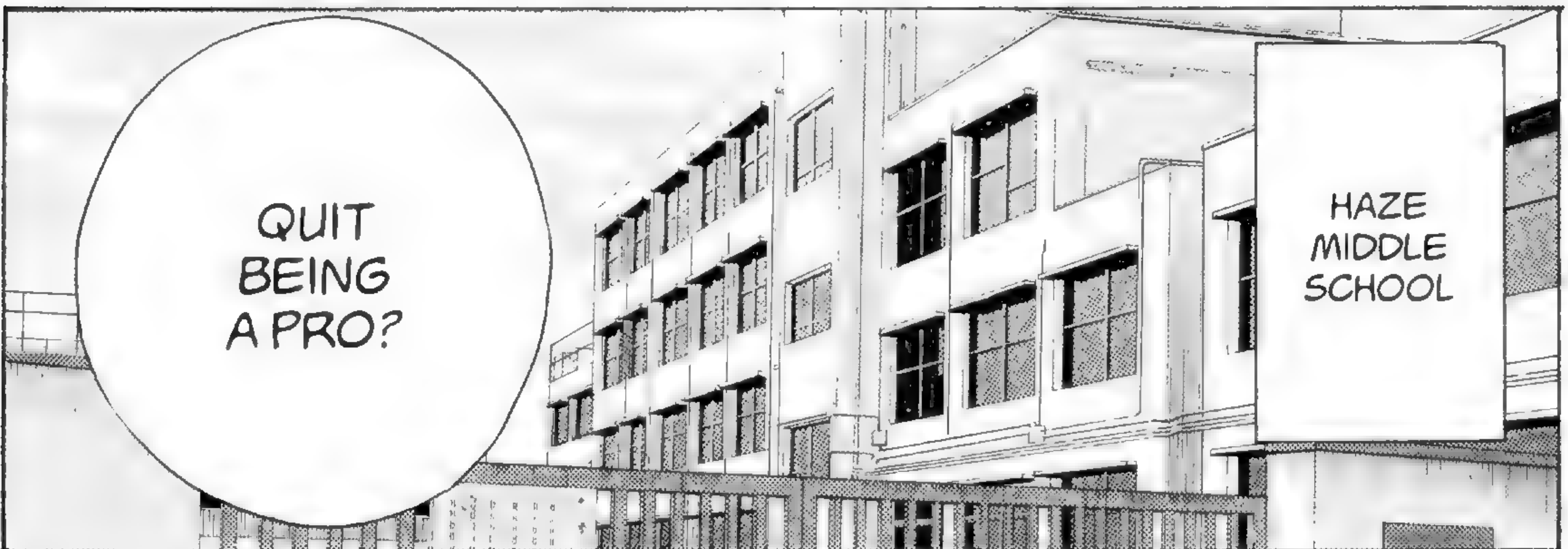
I'M GLAD HE
DIDN'T GO BACK
TO JAPAN AFTER
JUST A COUPLE
OF DAYS.



ISUMI'S
MOTIVATION
MUST BE RUBBING
OFF ON HIM.







TO KONG AND
EVERYONE AT
THE CHINESE GO
ASSOCIATION—
THANK YOU VERY
MUCH!

BUT
LOOKING
BACK ON IT,
I RECALL
HOW MUCH
FUN IT WAS.

AS SOMEONE
WITH LITTLE
PHYSICAL
ENDURANCE,
I THOUGHT
THE TRIP
TO CHINA
WOULD BE
BRUTAL.

HIKARU NO GO
RESEARCH
TRIP TO THE
CHINESE GO
ASSOCIATION

④
YUMI
HOTTA (のめえ)

AND THE
DINNER PARTY
WITH HU YAOYU,
ANOTHER PRO.



[JAPANESE
PRONUNCIATION
KO YUU.]

AND NAPPING IN
YUPING'S ROOM.
HE'S A PRO GO
PLAYER.



[JAPANESE
PRONUNCI-
ATION
YOHEI.]

I REMEMBER
EATING
WATERMELON
IN THE
TRAINING
ROOM.



Pine
nuts
too.

I want
brand name
T-shirts.

I want
to go to
Tienanmen
Square.

BUT...



Thank
you!

I'll carry
your bags.

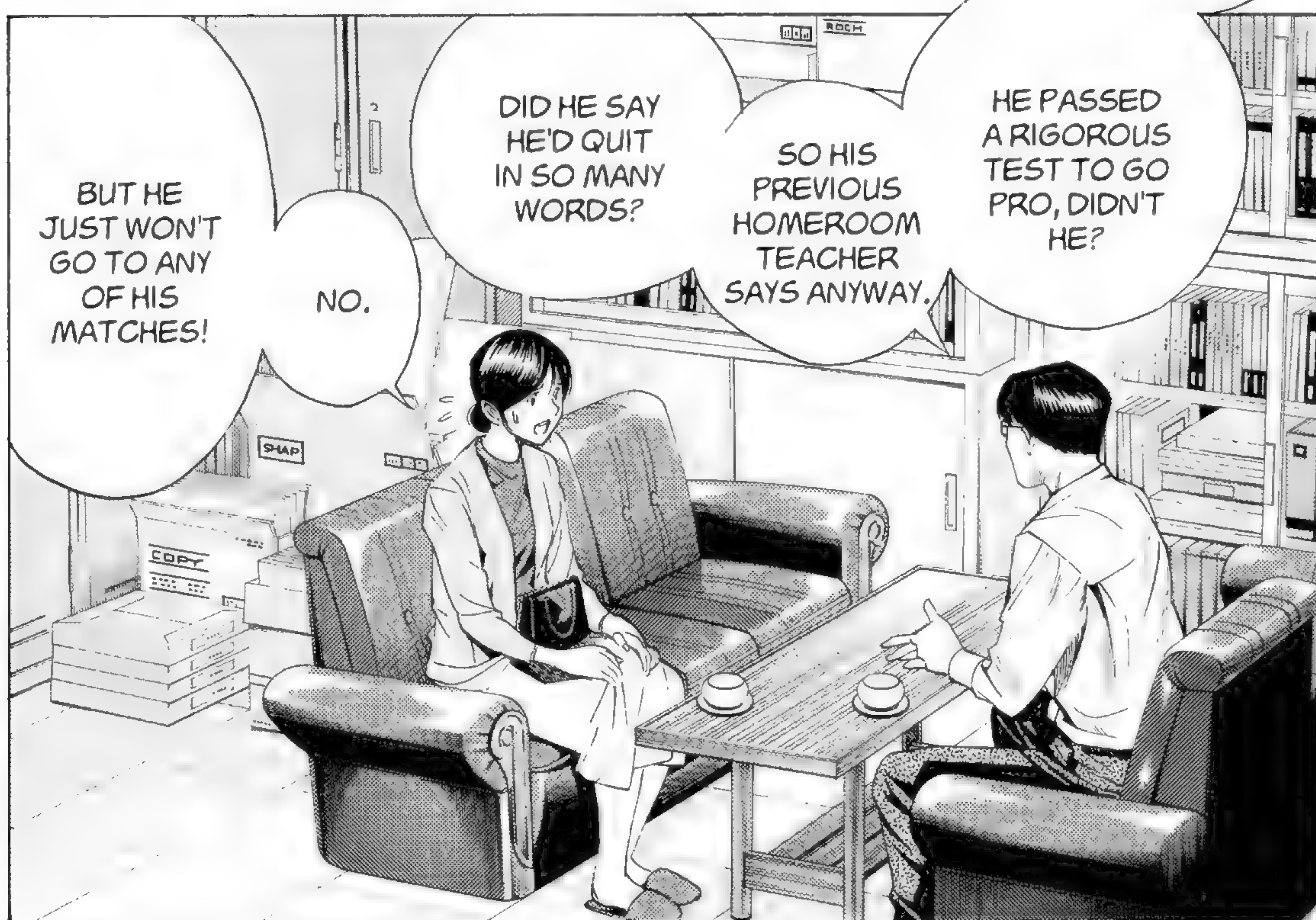
I NEARLY
COL-
LAPSED
BEFORE
OUR
RETURN
TO
JAPAN.

Game
136
“Forfeit,
Forfeit...”





QUIT BEING
A PRO?
I CAN'T
BELIEVE IT!



BUT HE
JUST WON'T
GO TO ANY
OF HIS
MATCHES!

NO.

DID HE SAY
HE'D QUIT
IN SO MANY
WORDS?

SO HIS
PREVIOUS
HOMEROOM
TEACHER
SAYS ANYWAY.

HE PASSED
A RIGOROUS
TEST TO GO
PRO, DIDN'T
HE?



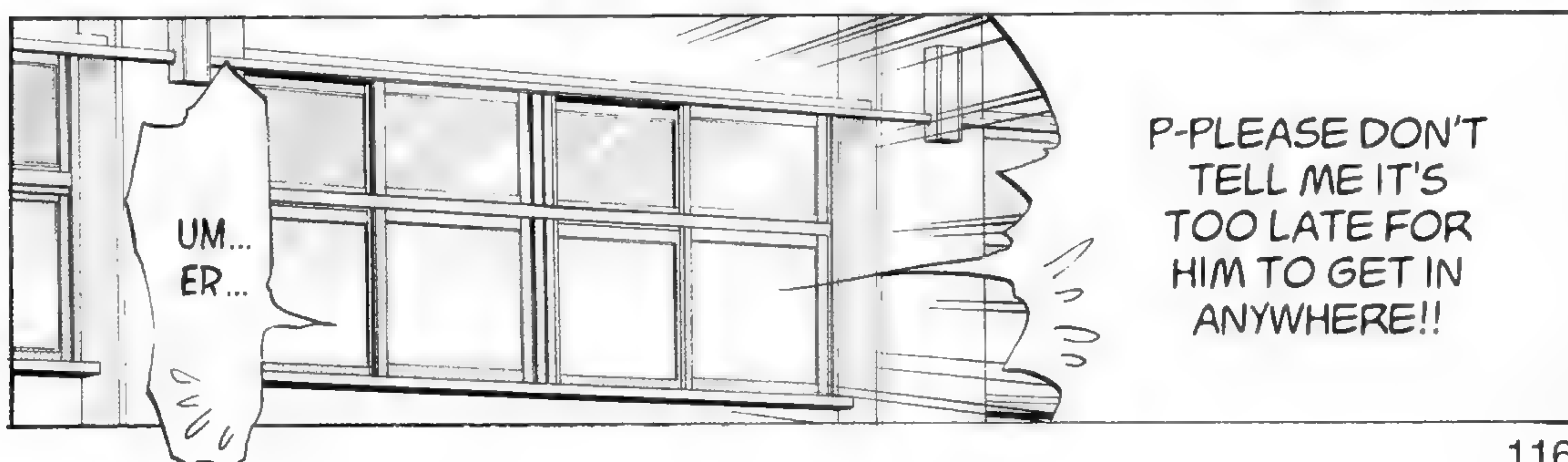
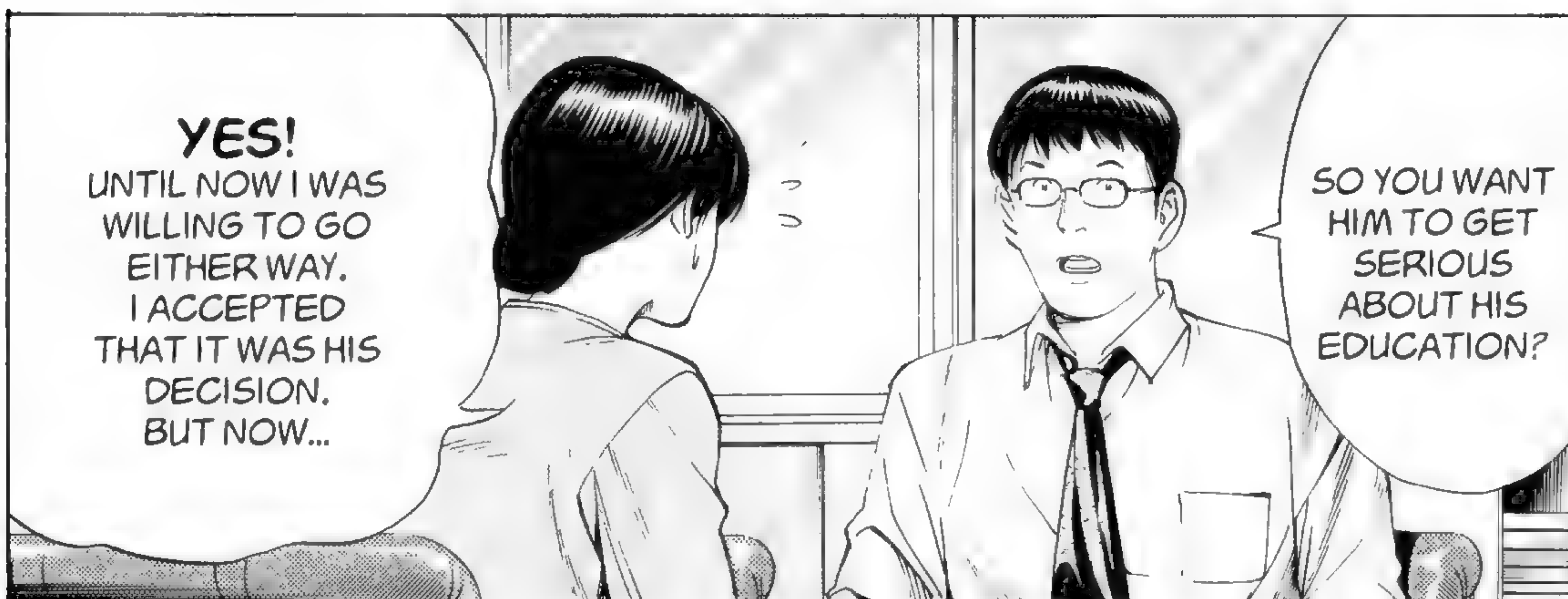
...BUT SINCE
THEN HE
HASN'T BEEN
ONCE,
THOUGH
HE GETS
NOTICES IN
THE MAIL
ABOUT HIS
MATCH
TIMES.

IN APRIL
HE WENT
TWICE...



WON'T
GO?









BUT YOU'RE
GOING TO
QUIT BEING
A PROFES-
SIONAL GO
PLAYER?!

WHAT?!
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
JUST
SAYING
THAT TO
ME!



I TOLD YOU,
I'M NOT
PLAYING
GO
ANYMORE.

...



SELFISH!



THAT'S
RIGHT, I'LL
PROBABLY
QUIT.

IF SAI
NEVER
COMES
BACK...



I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
HAPPENED,
BUT...

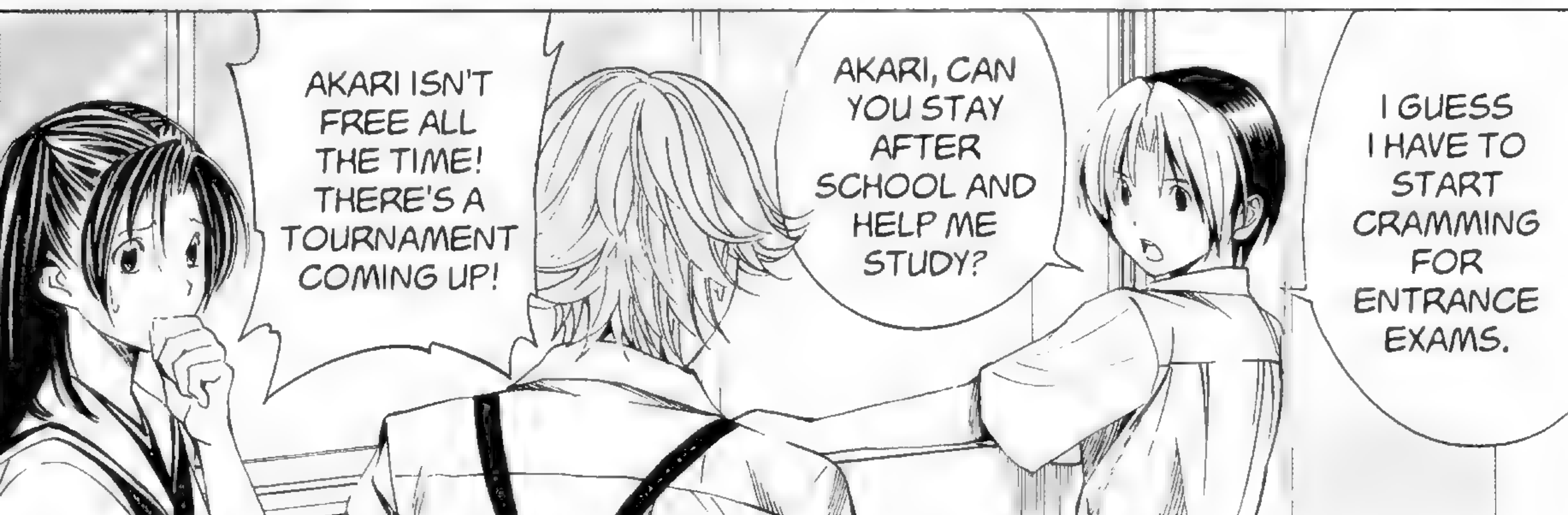
YUKI!



WHAT WILL
YOU DO
FROM NOW
ON, HIKARU?



...YOU QUIT
THE GO
CLUB TO
GO PRO.



AKARI ISN'T
FREE ALL
THE TIME!
THERE'S A
TOURNAMENT
COMING UP!

AKARI, CAN
YOU STAY
AFTER
SCHOOL AND
HELP ME
STUDY?

I GUESS
I HAVE TO
START
CRAMMING
FOR
ENTRANCE
EXAMS.



HEY!
DON'T
BE SO
DISMIS-
SIVE!



A
TOURNA-
MENT,
HUH?



C'MON,
YUKI...

YOU HAD
MORE FIRE
BACK WHEN
YOU WERE
OUT TO
BEAT KAIO!



OH!
Y-YOU'RE
GOING TO
PLAY FOR
US, YUKI?

EAT YOUR
HEART OUT,
SHINDO!
YOU'RE NEVER
PLAYING IN
THE CLUB
AGAIN!



I'M GONNA BE IN
THE TOURNA-
MENT THIS TIME!
NATSUME AND
KOIKE AND I ARE
GONNA TAKE
KAIO TOGETHER!



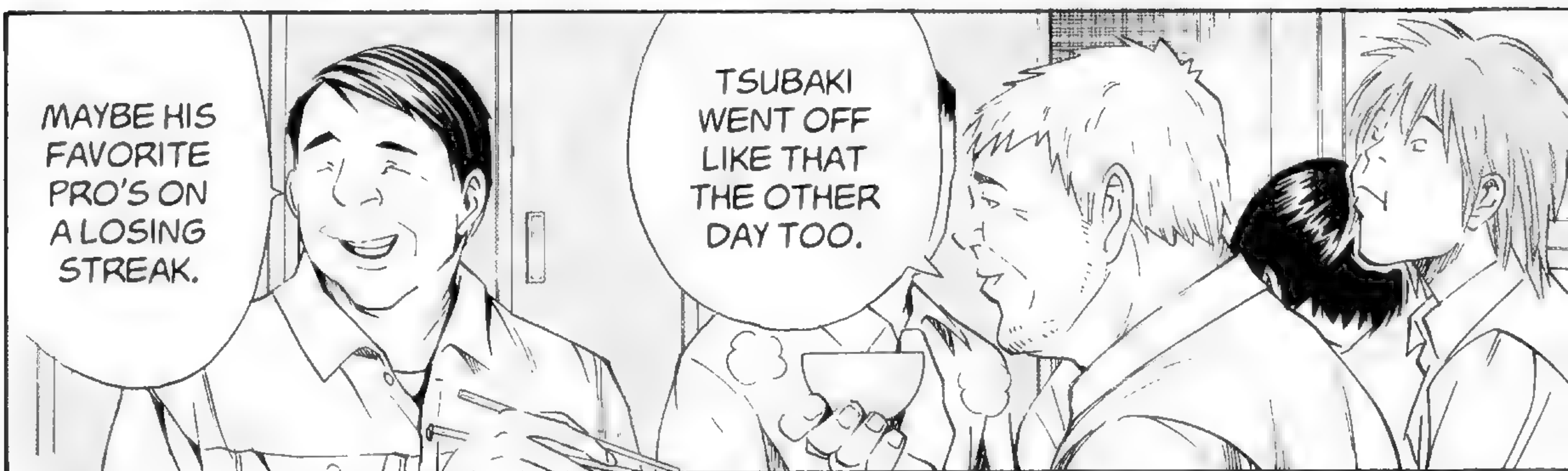
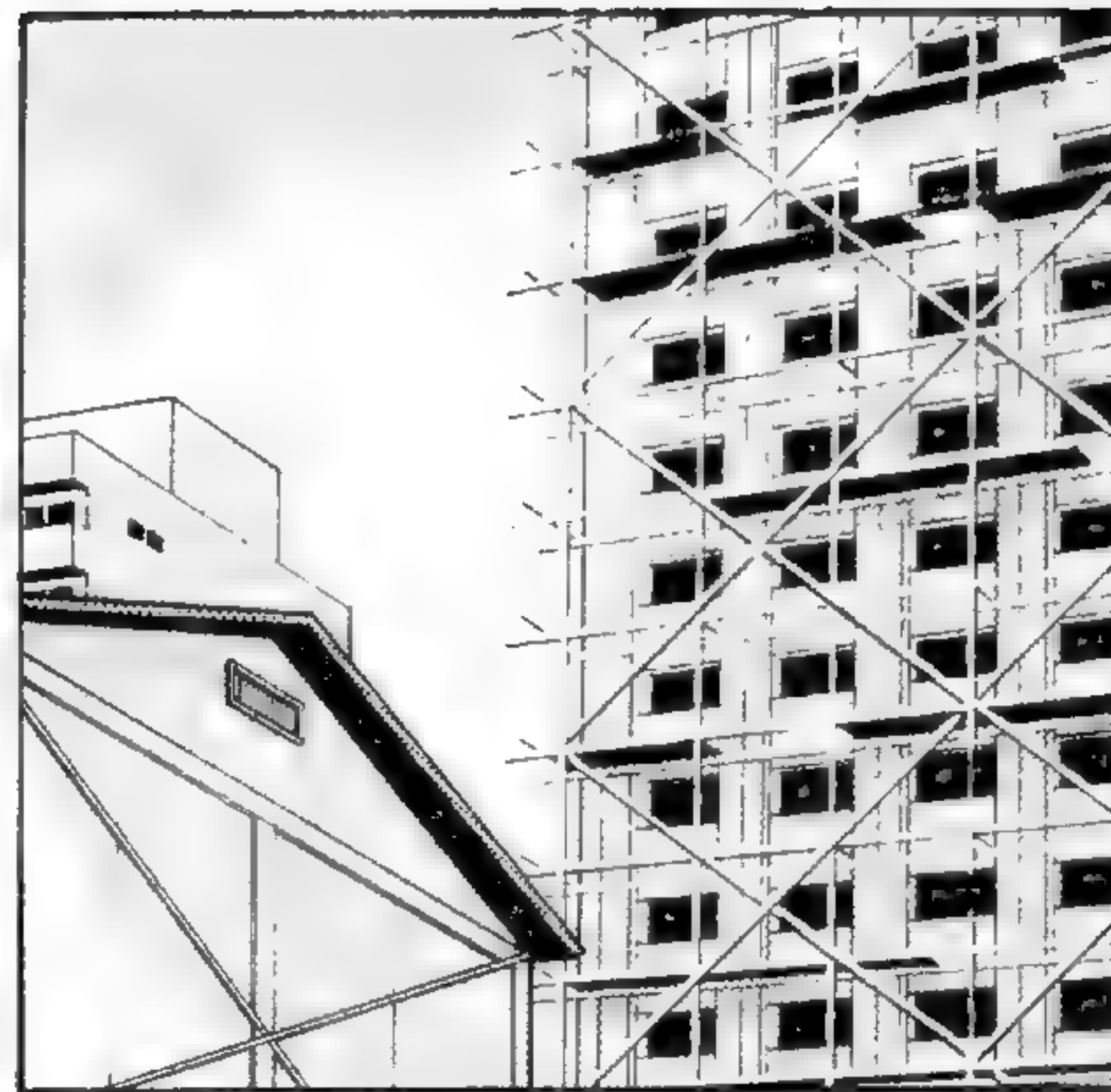
JUST
FORGET
ABOUT HIM,
AKARI!

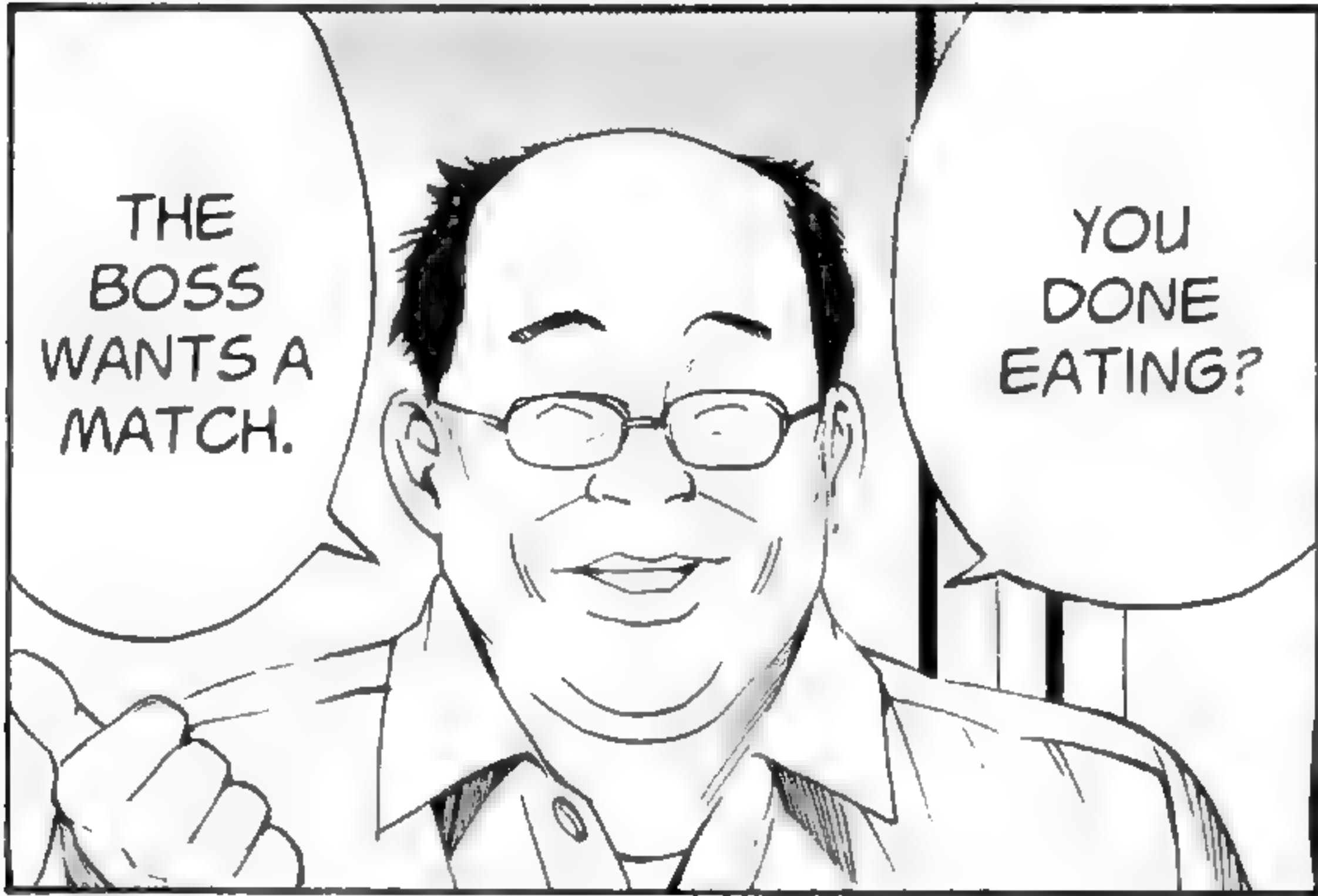
YUKI!



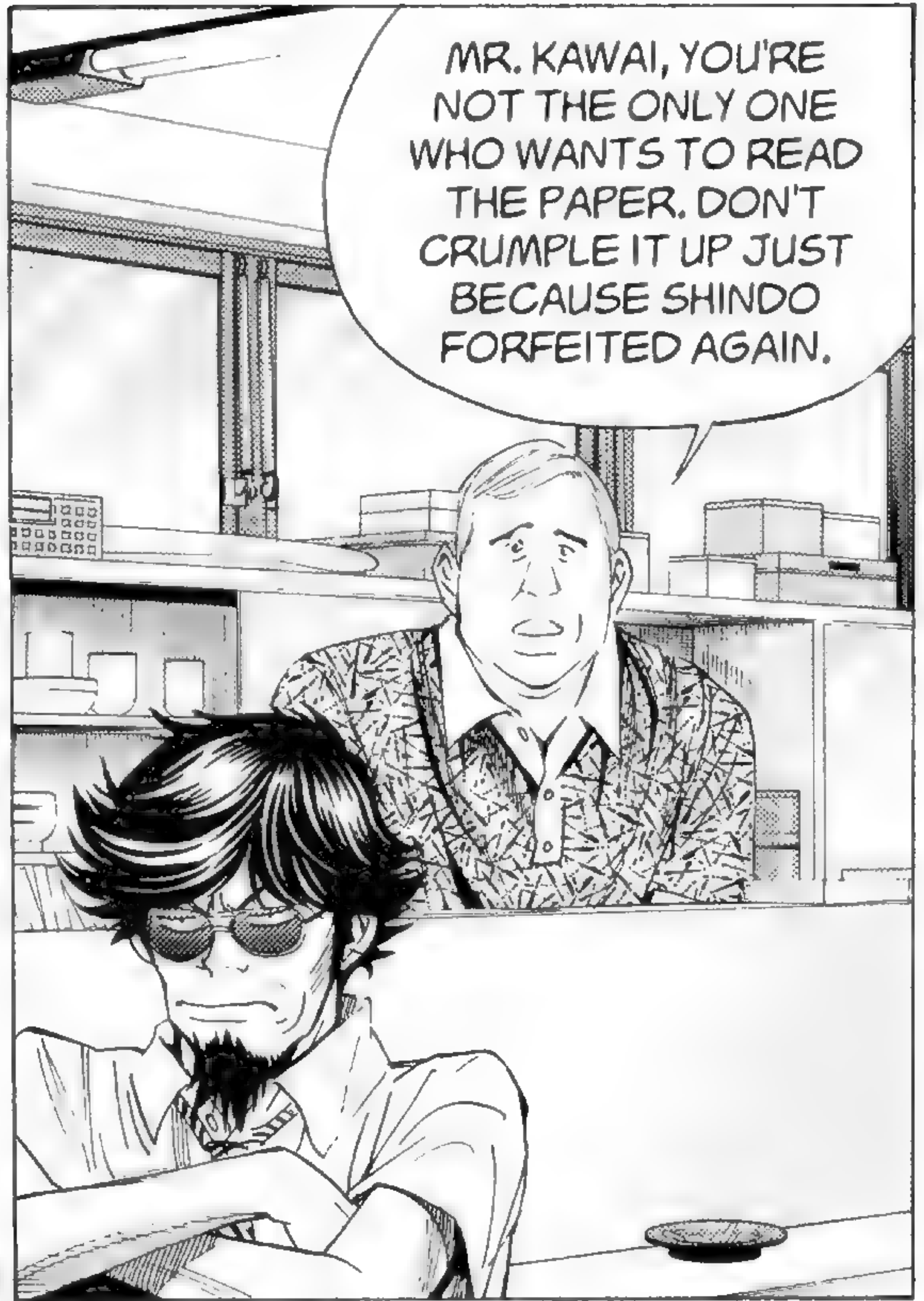


Go Weekly

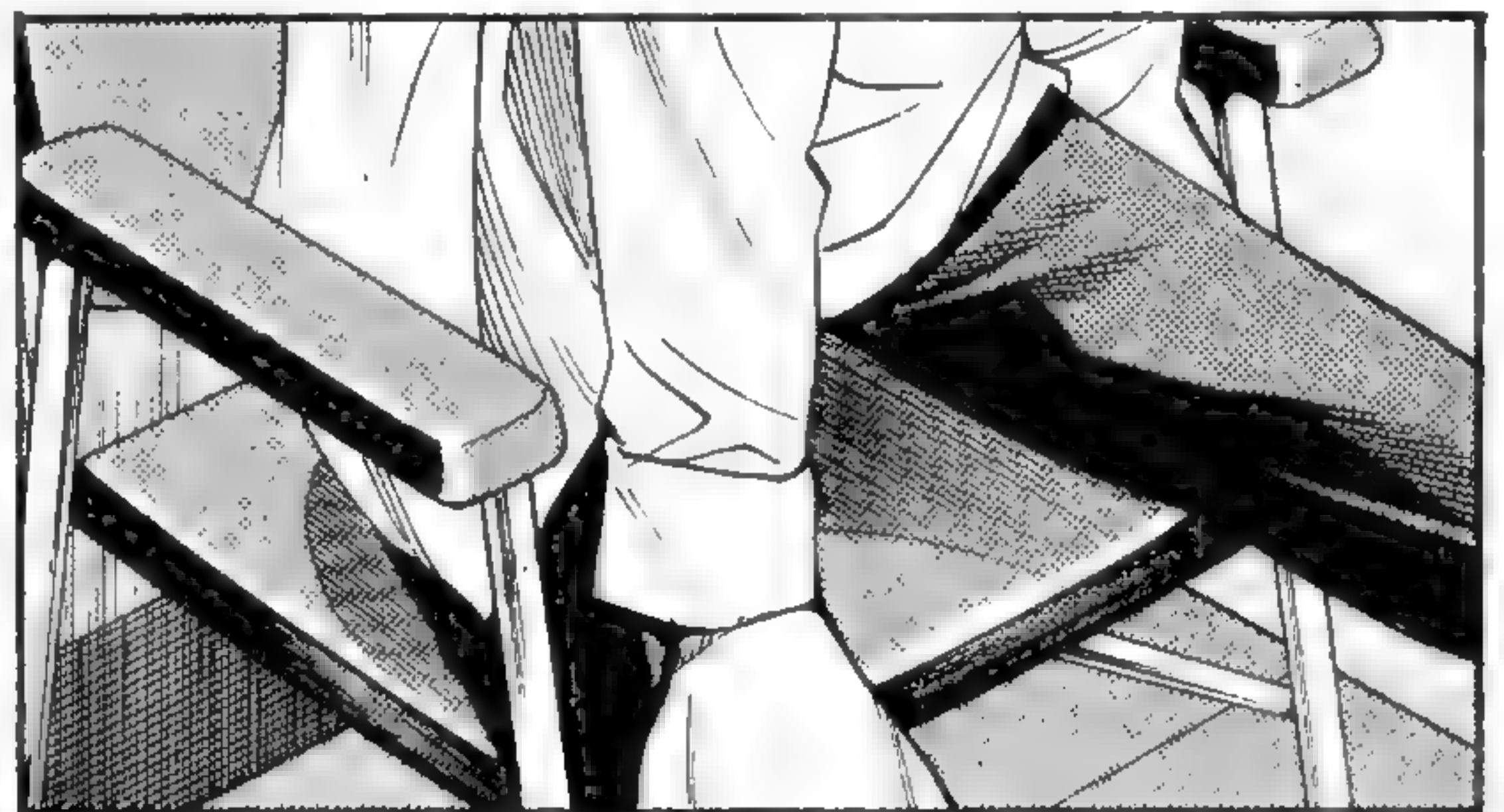
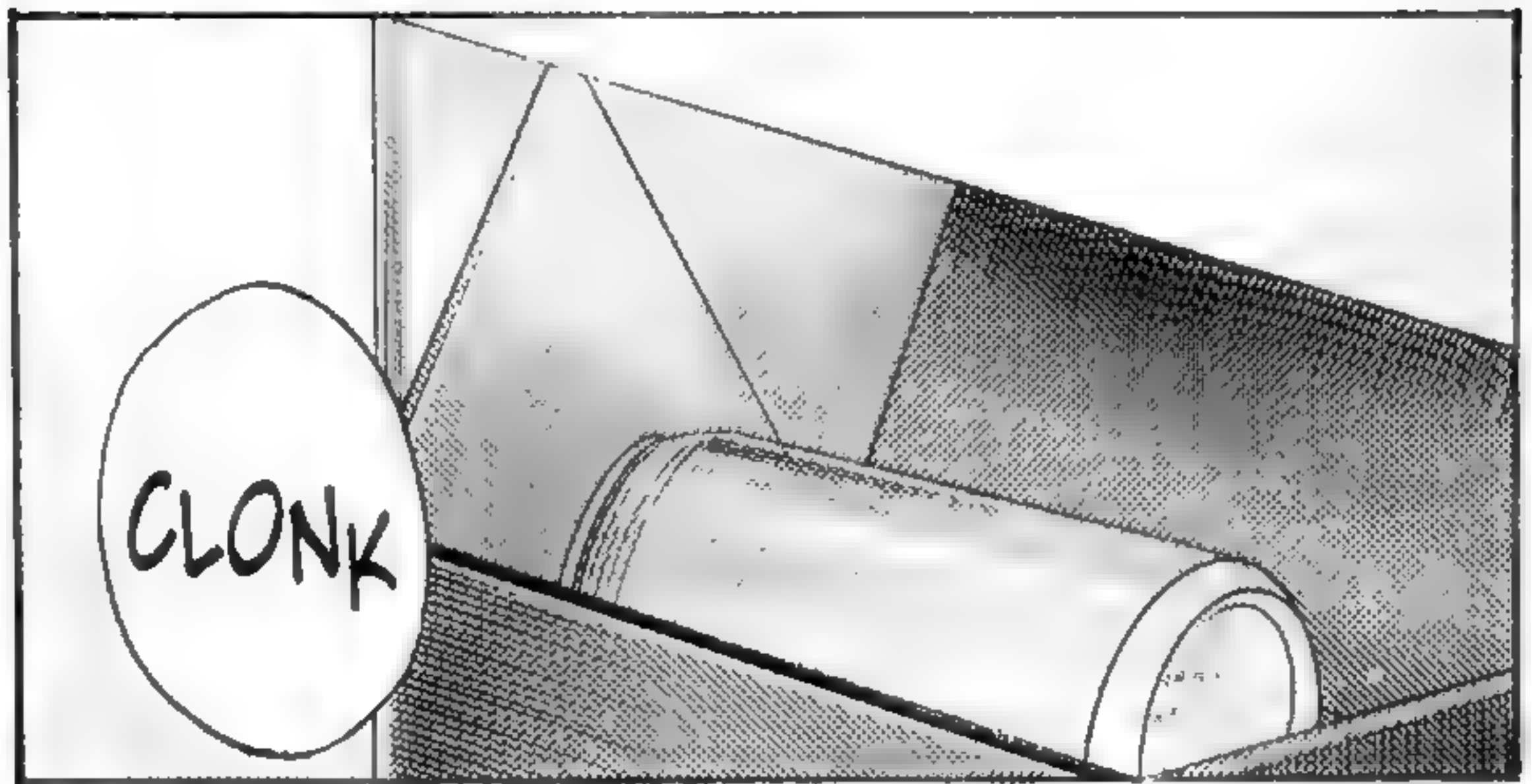
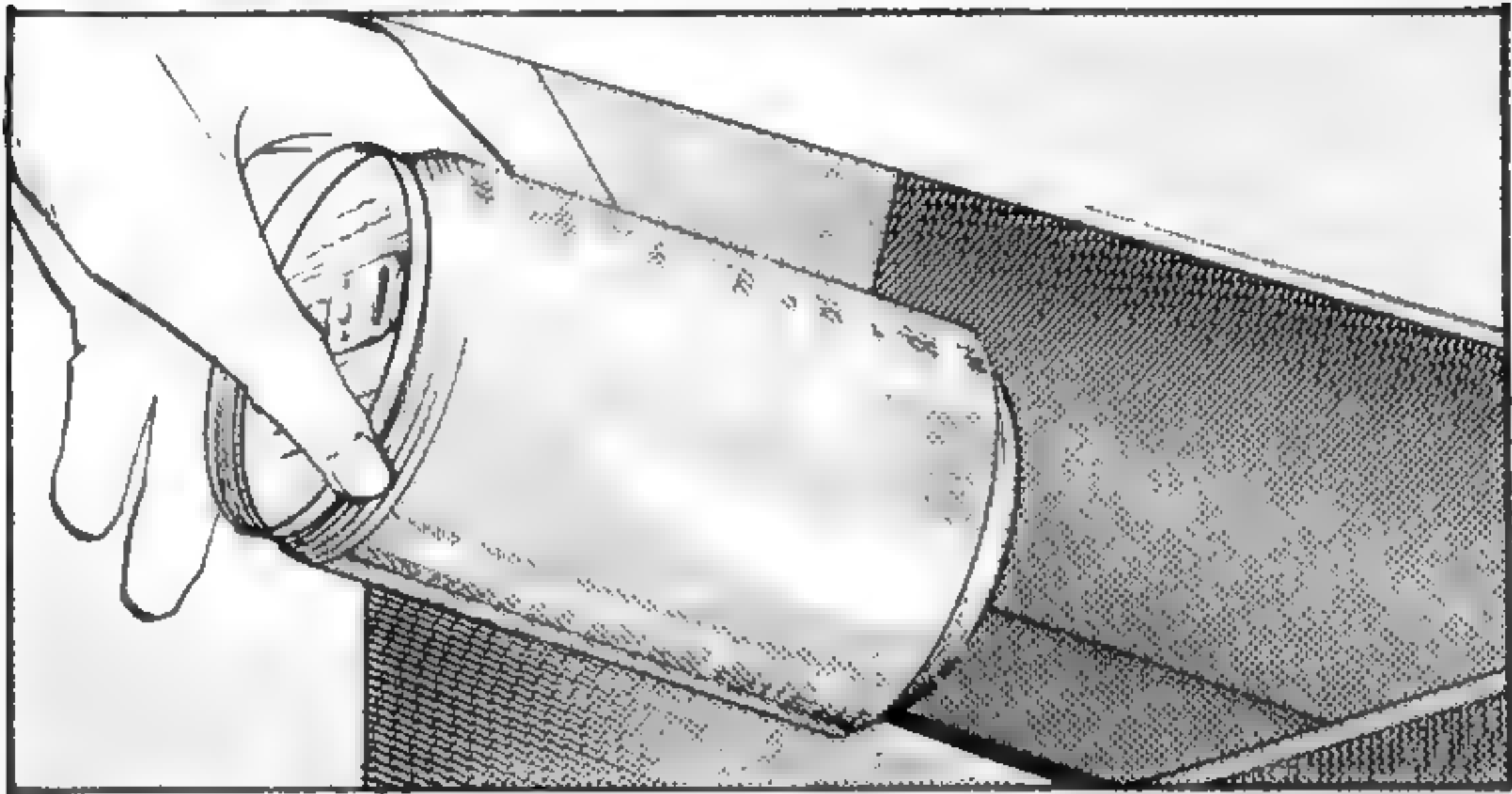


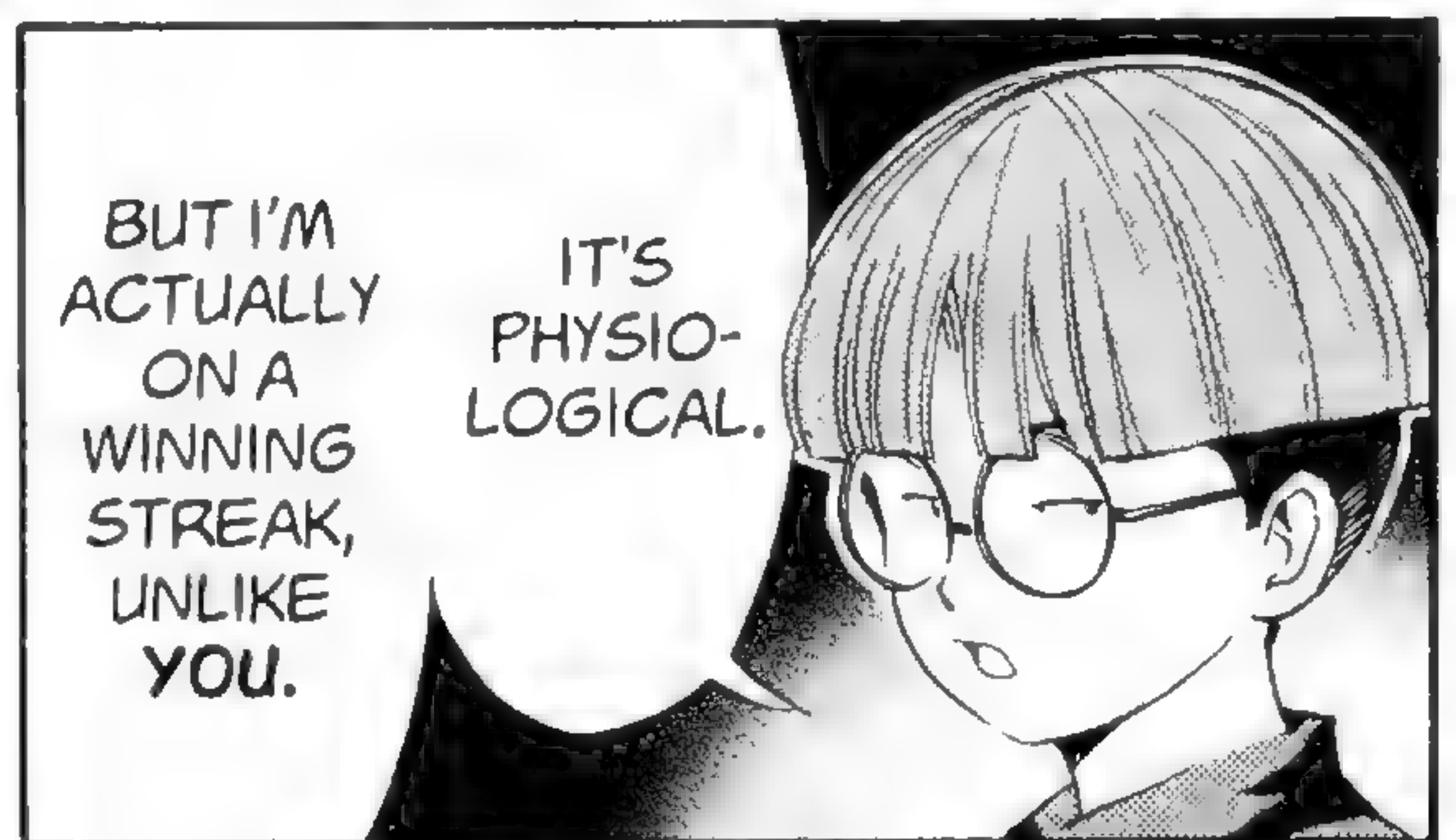
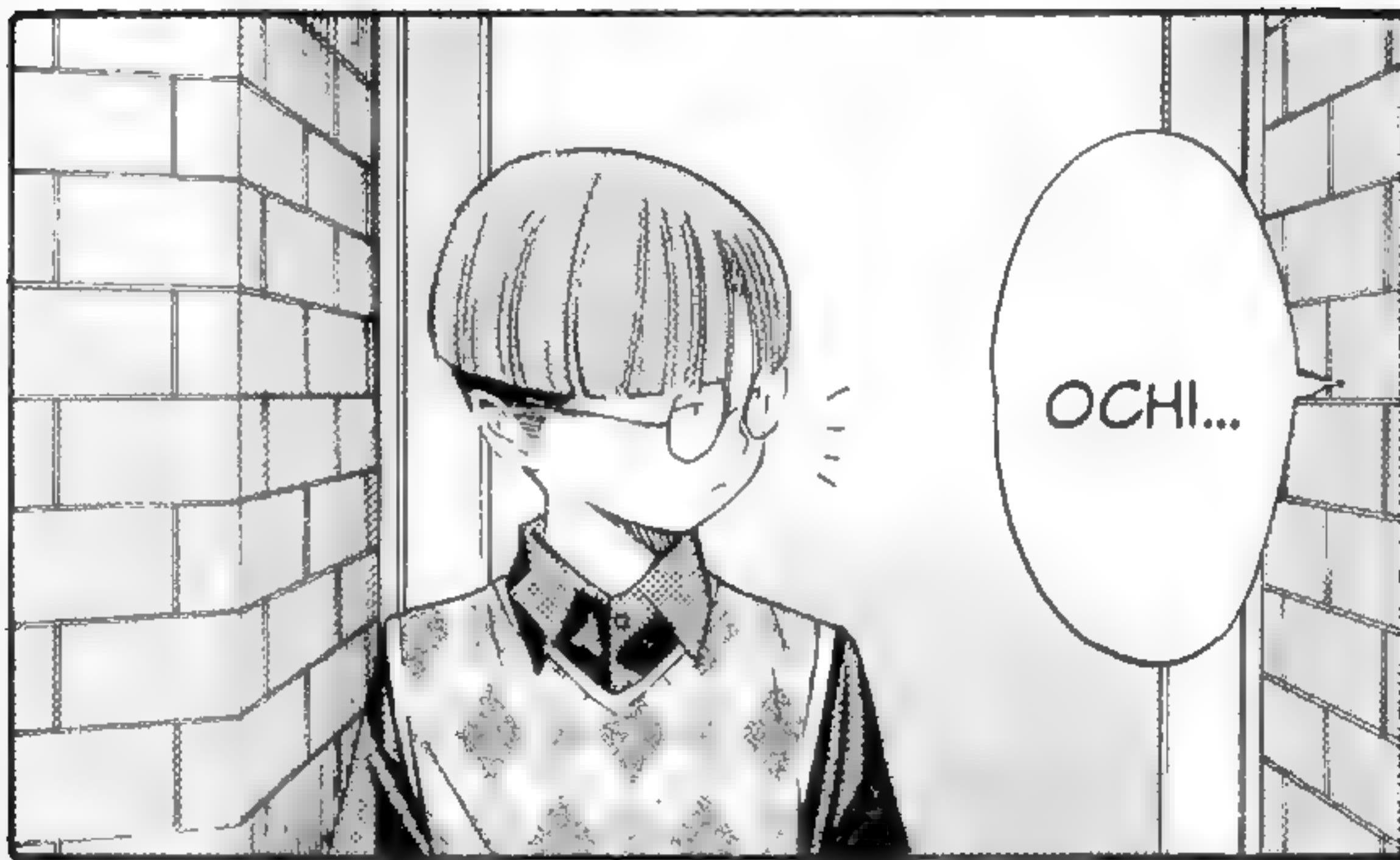






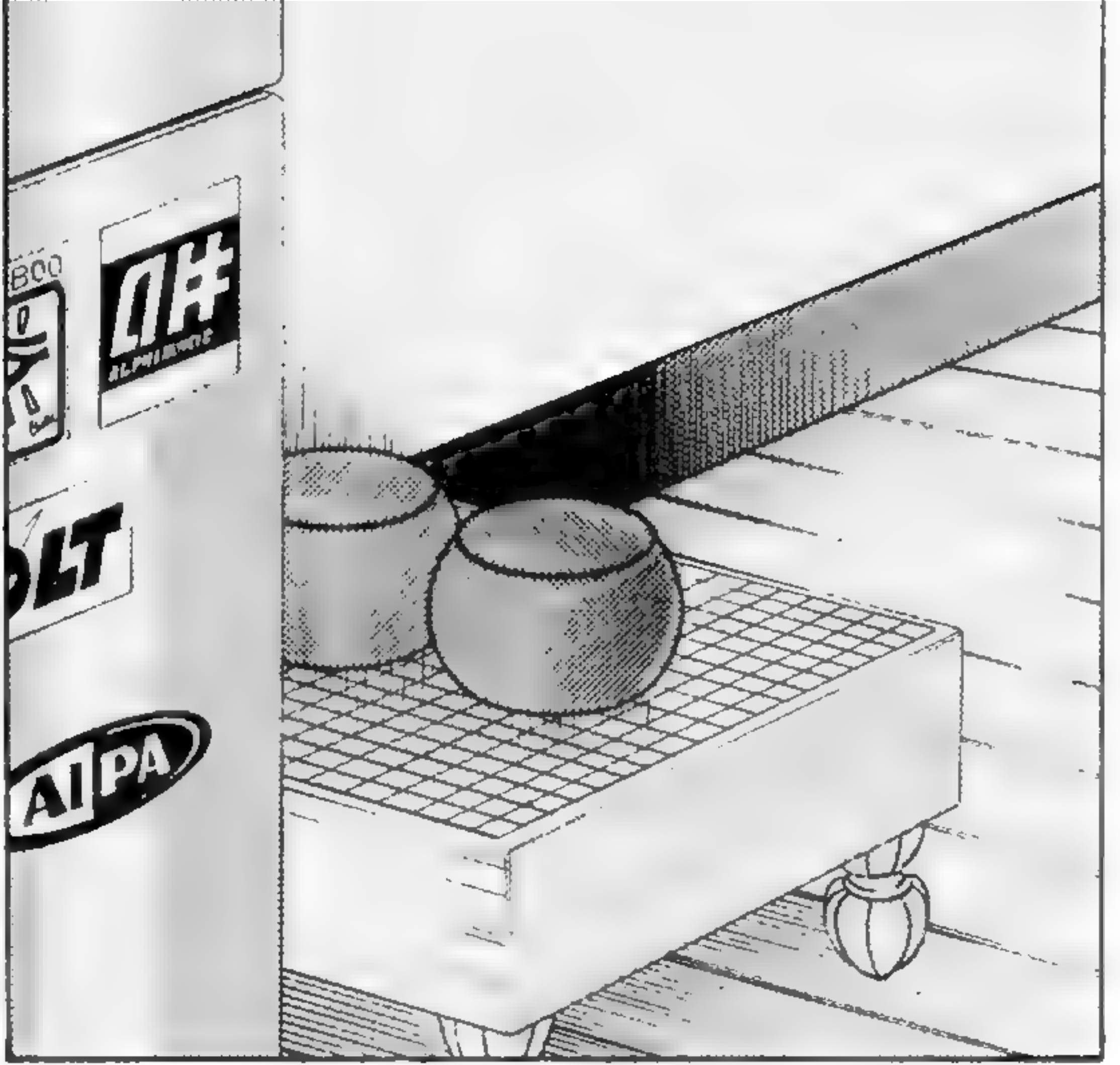
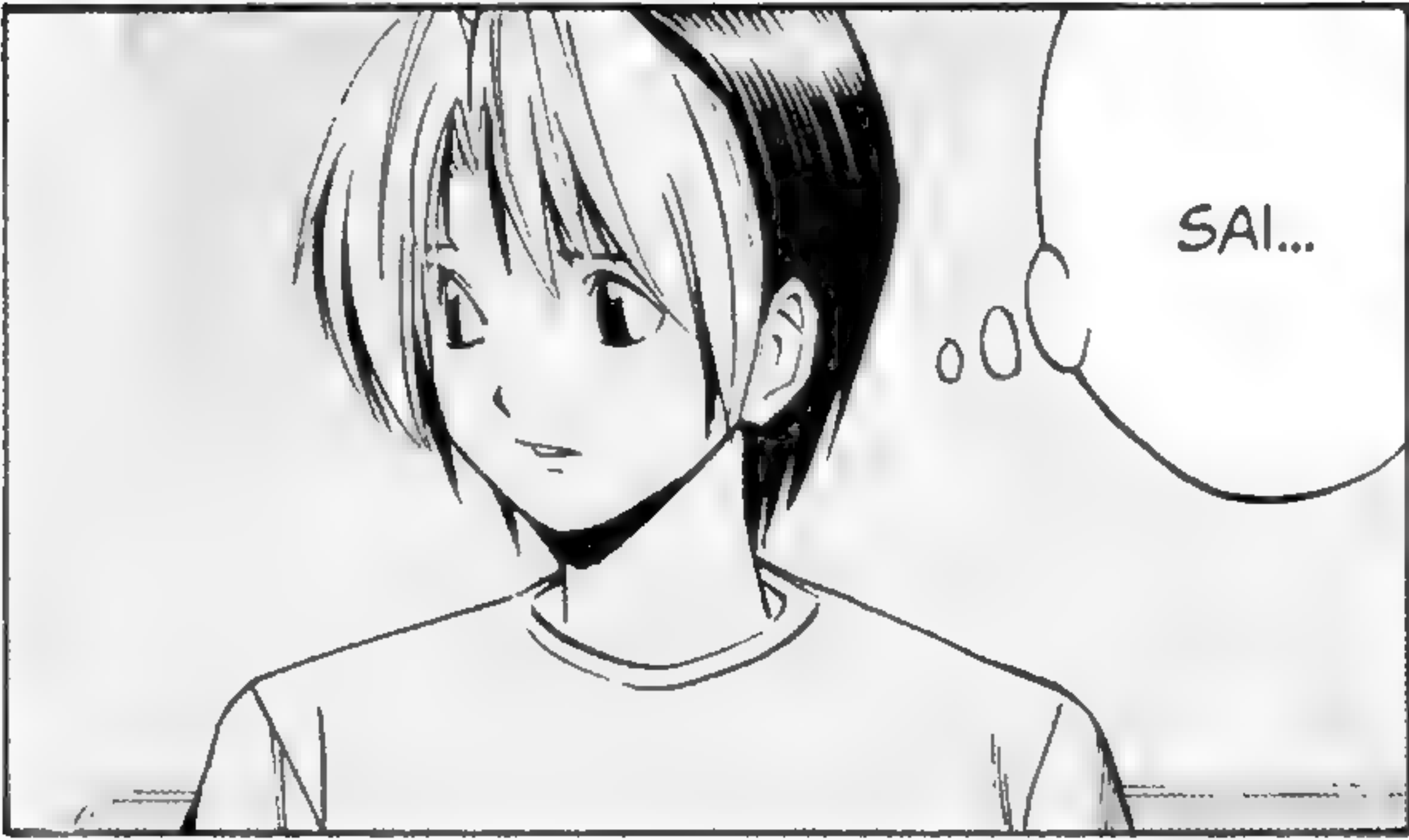












A WORD ABOUT HIKARU NO GO

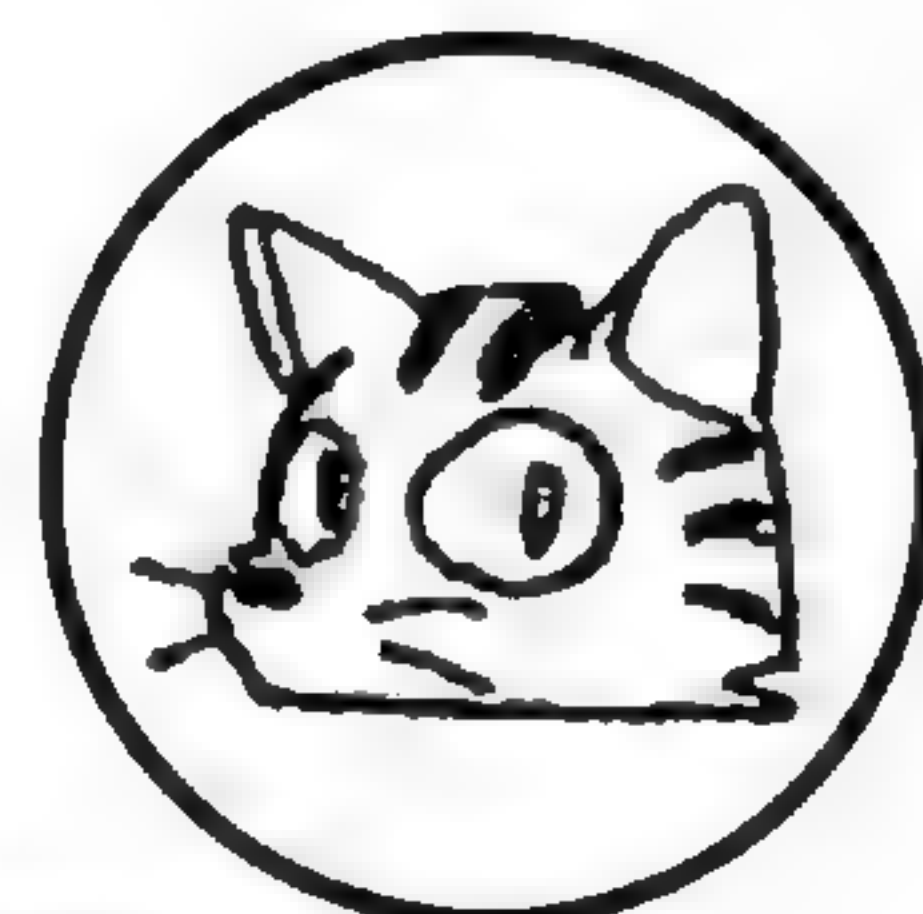
THE CHINESE GO ASSOCIATION



A NUMBER OF JAPANESE PROS HAVE COME HERE TO TRAIN. THE LENGTHS OF THEIR STAYS HAVE VARIED, BUT ONE PERSON STAYED FOR A WHOLE YEAR.

ARE YOU ASKING ME WHETHER ANYONE SECRETLY STAYED OVER AT THE ASSOCIATION LIKE ISUMI?

SHHH... NOT TELLING!



Game 137 "The Last Tournament"



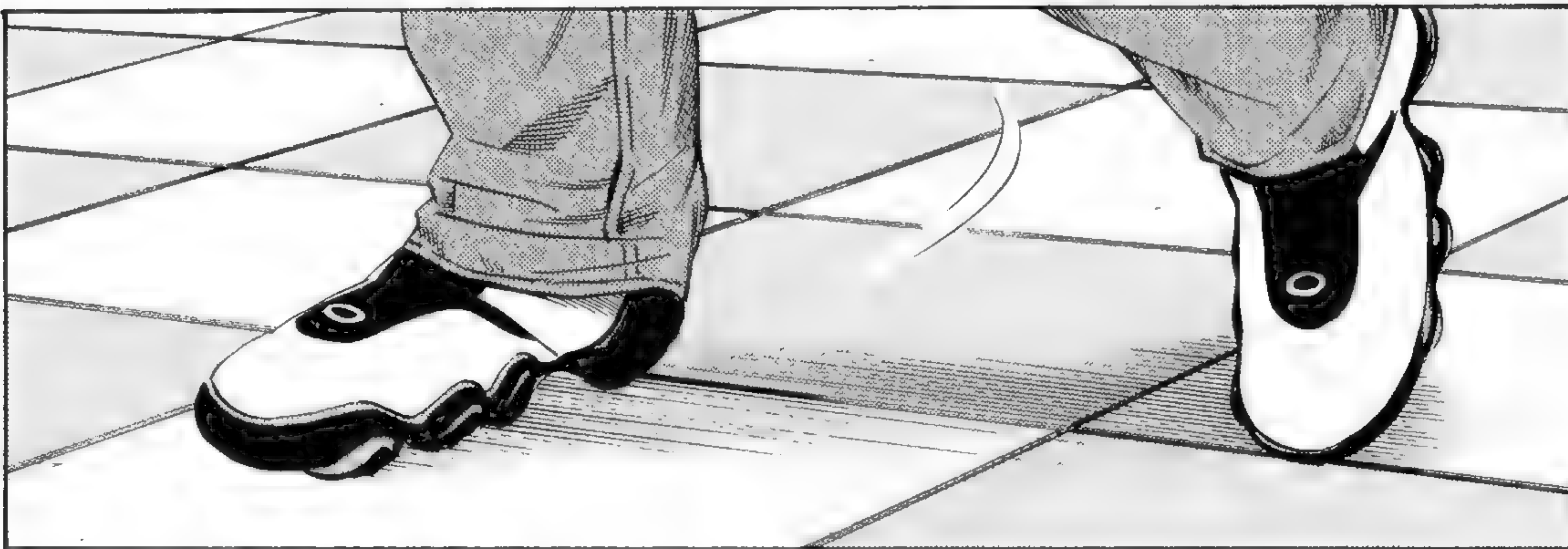
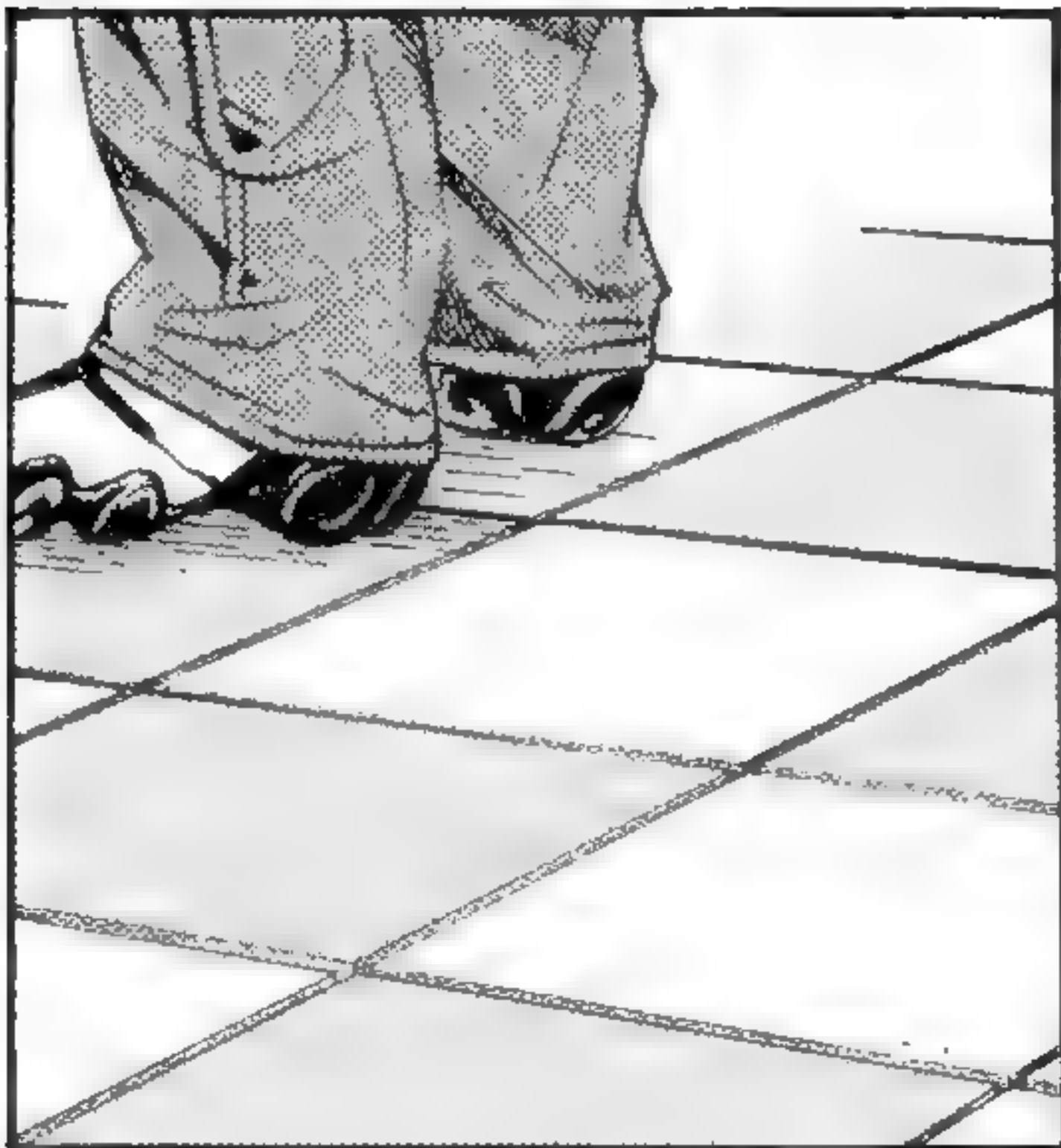










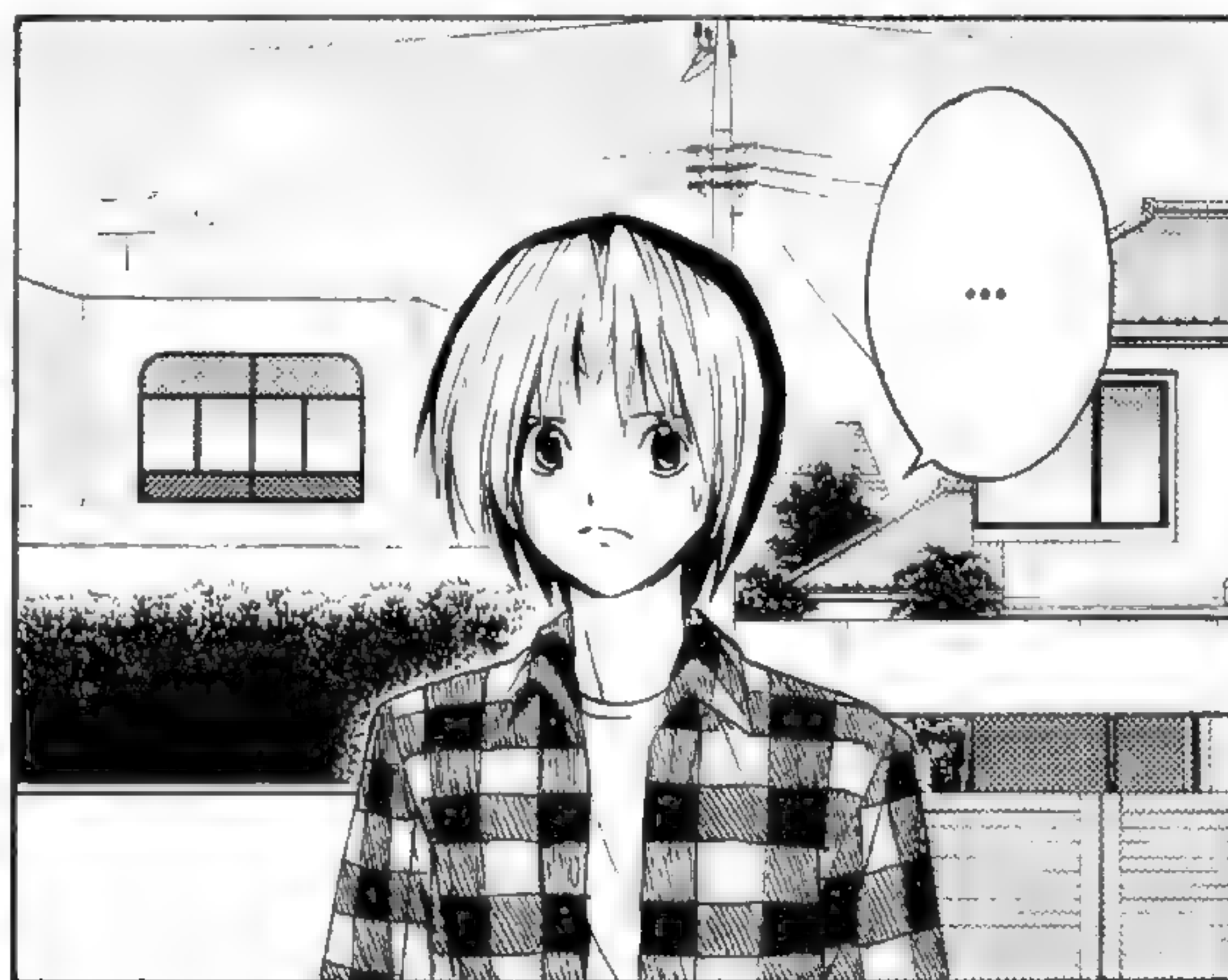




THEY'VE
JUST
STARTED
PLAYING.



I'M JUST
GOING TO
WATCH.



...

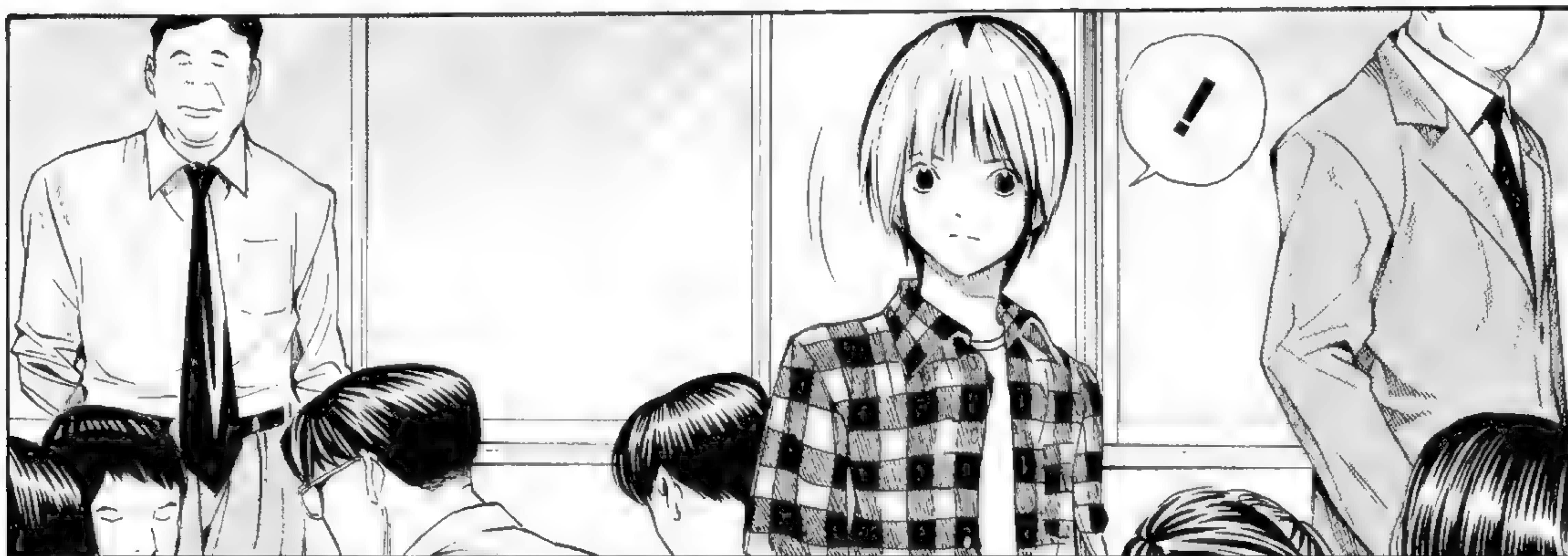
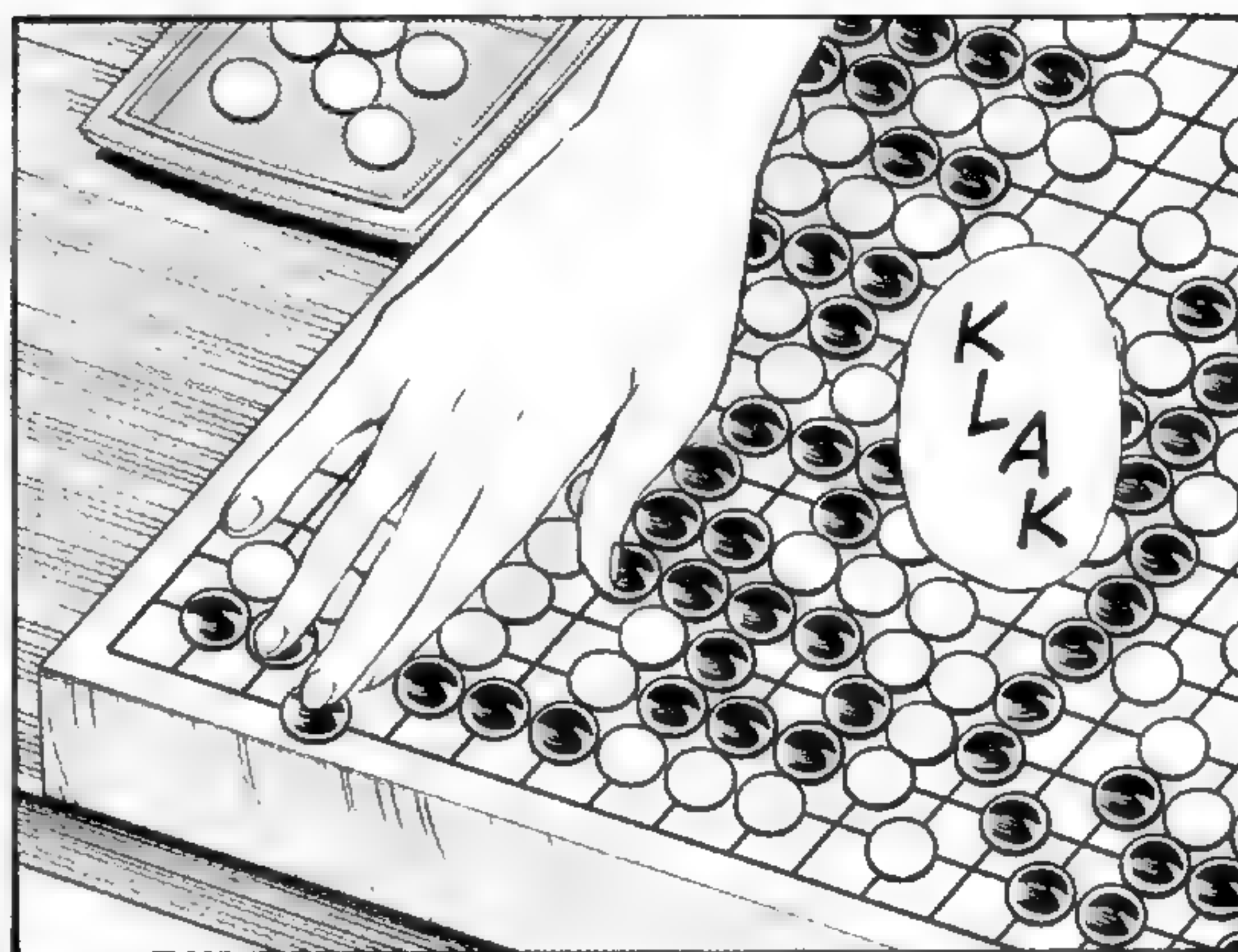


GOT
THAT,
SAI?

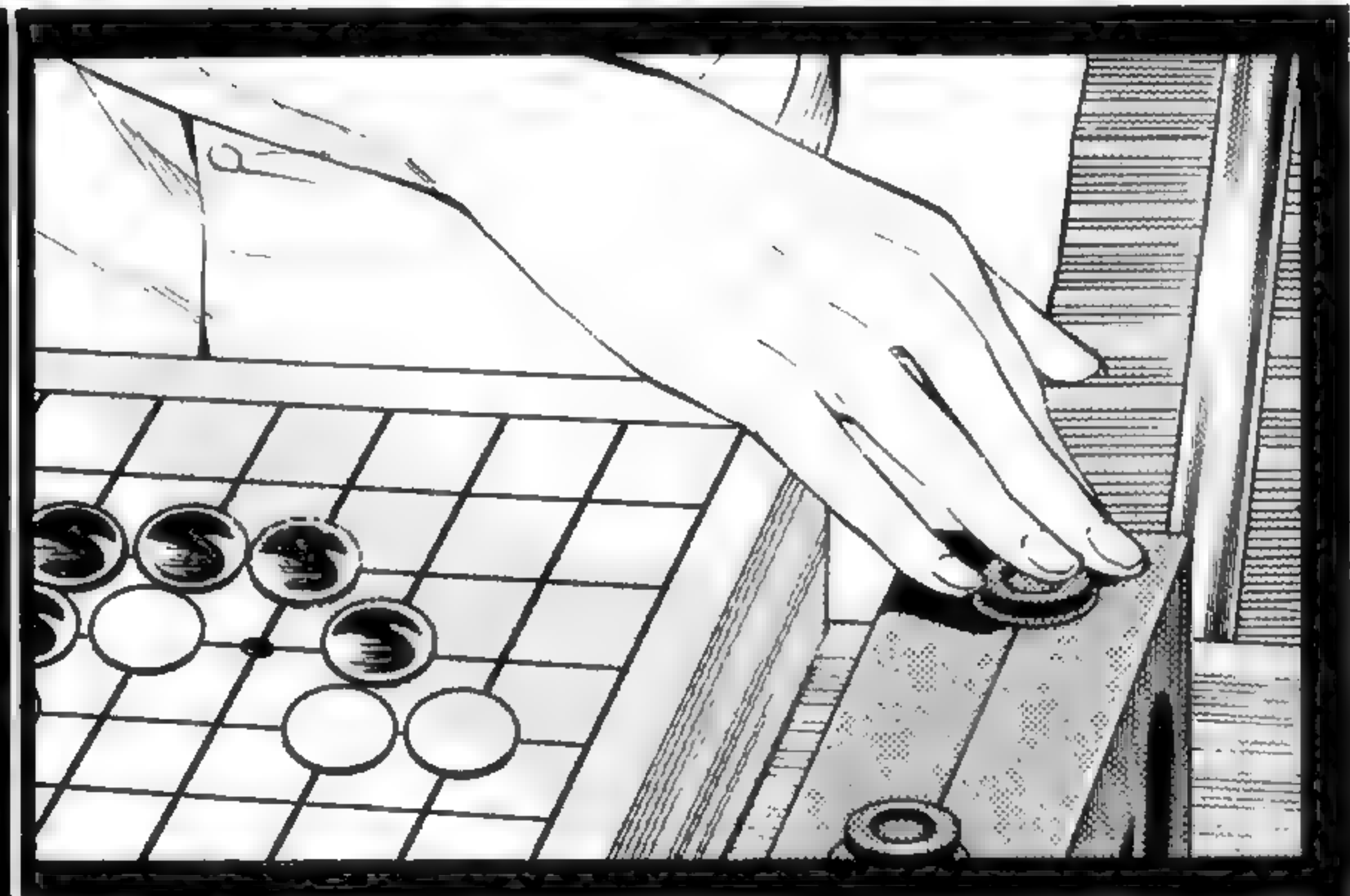
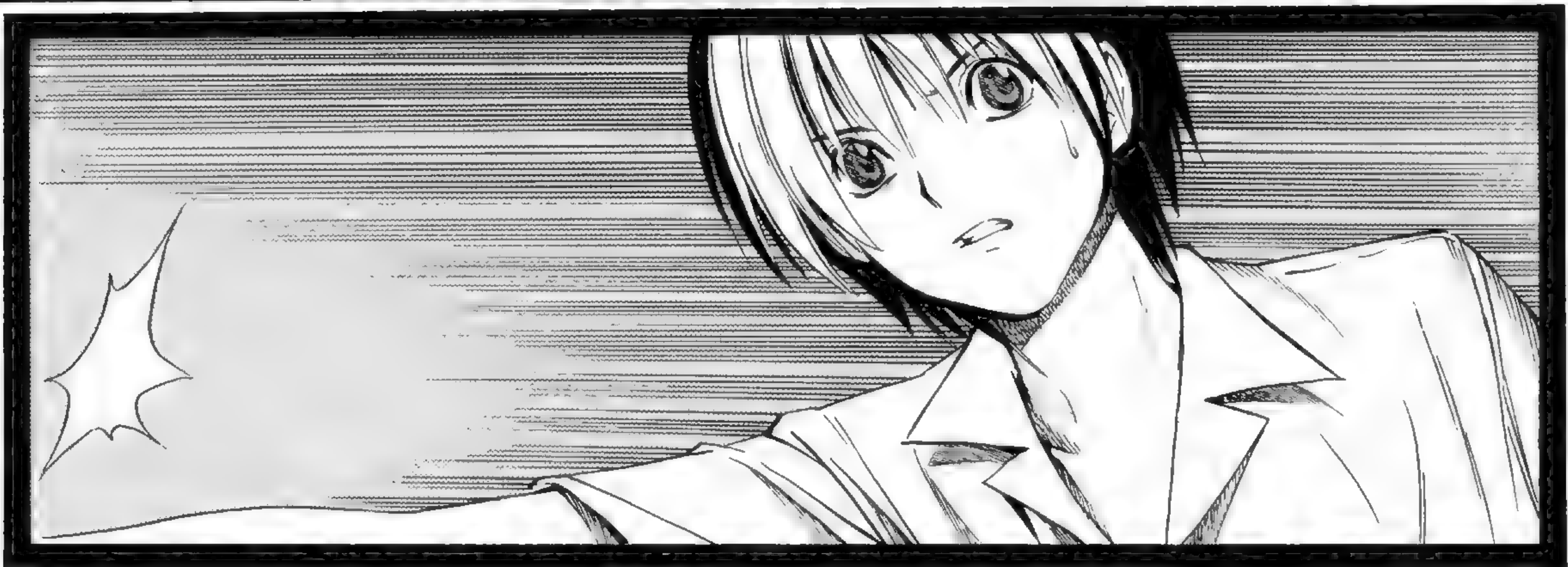
I'M NOT
PLAYING.

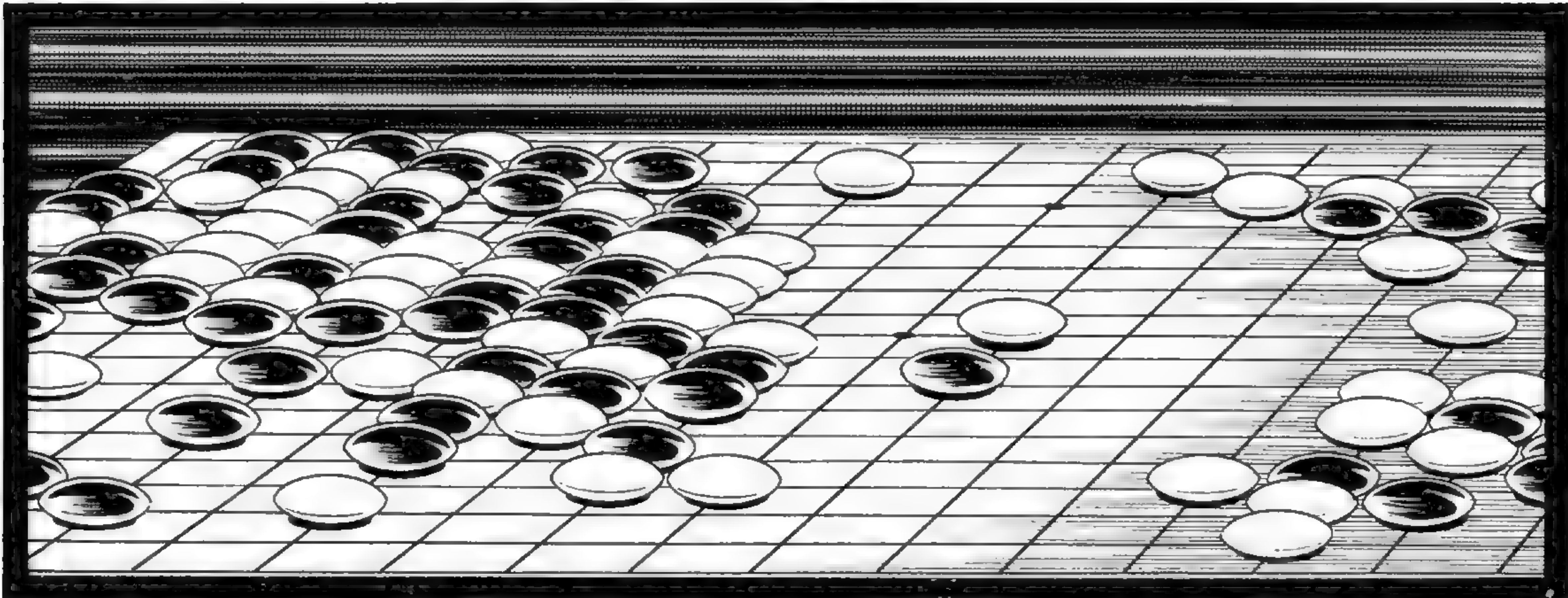
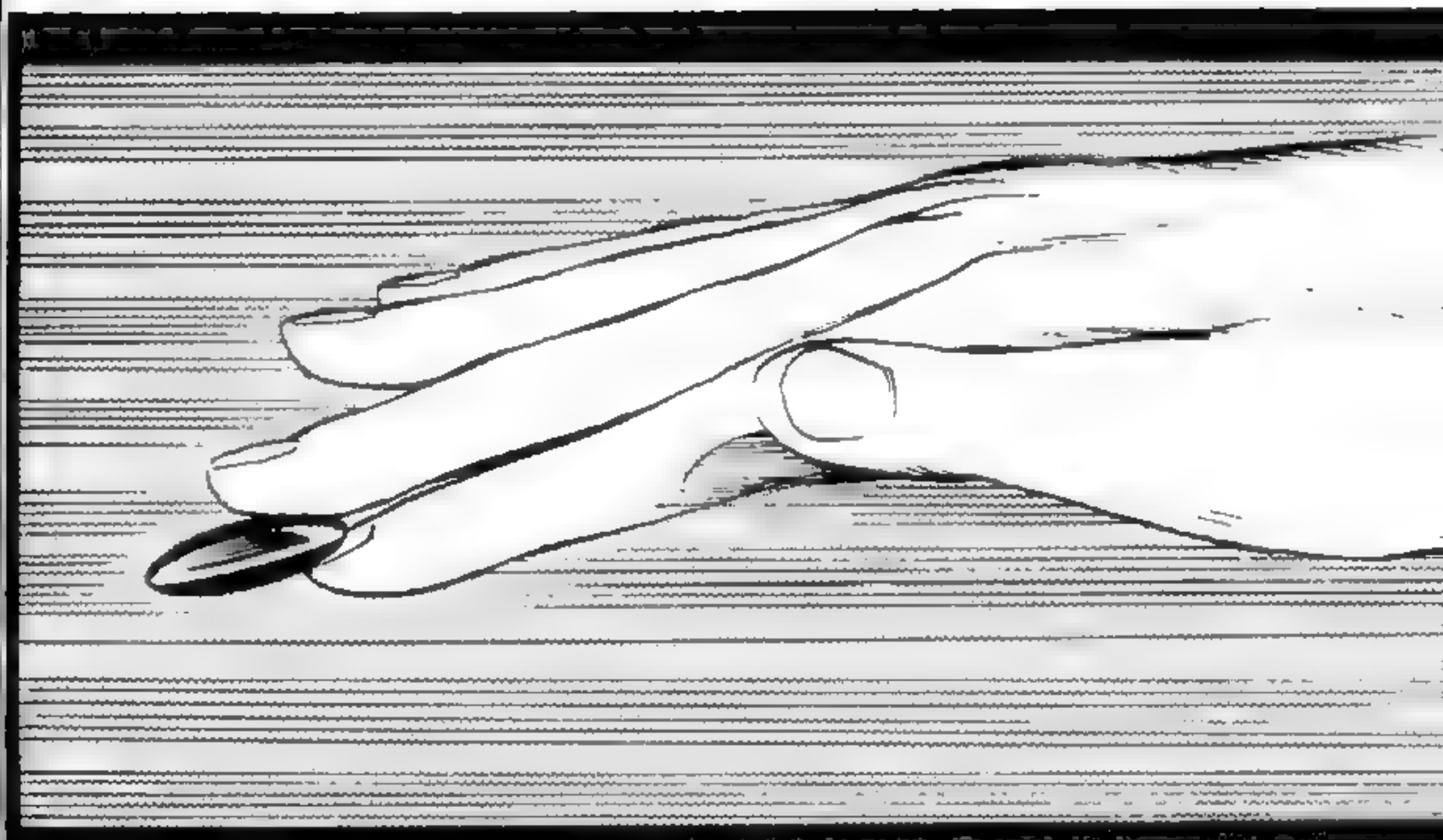




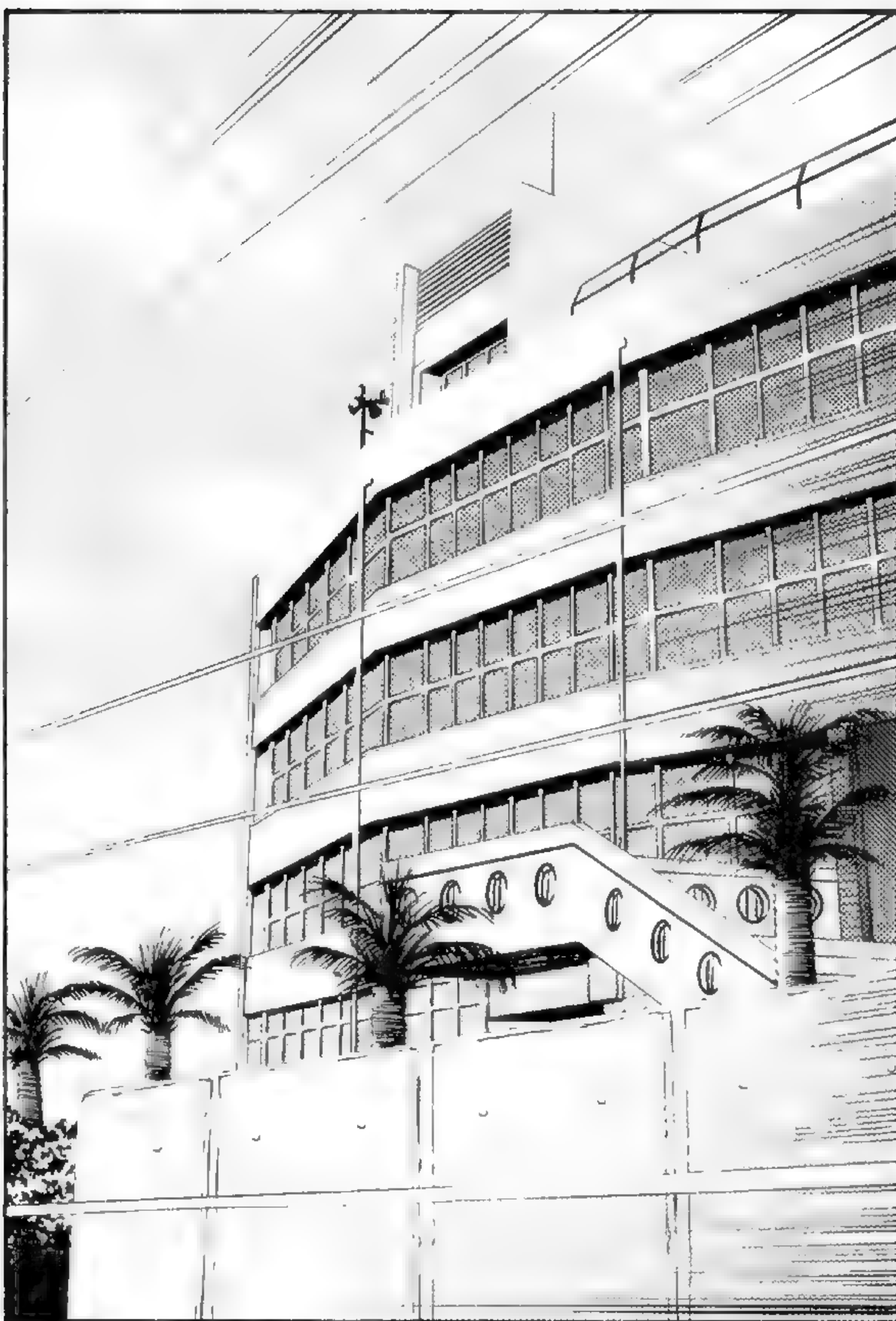












...WILL
NEVER
COME
BACK.

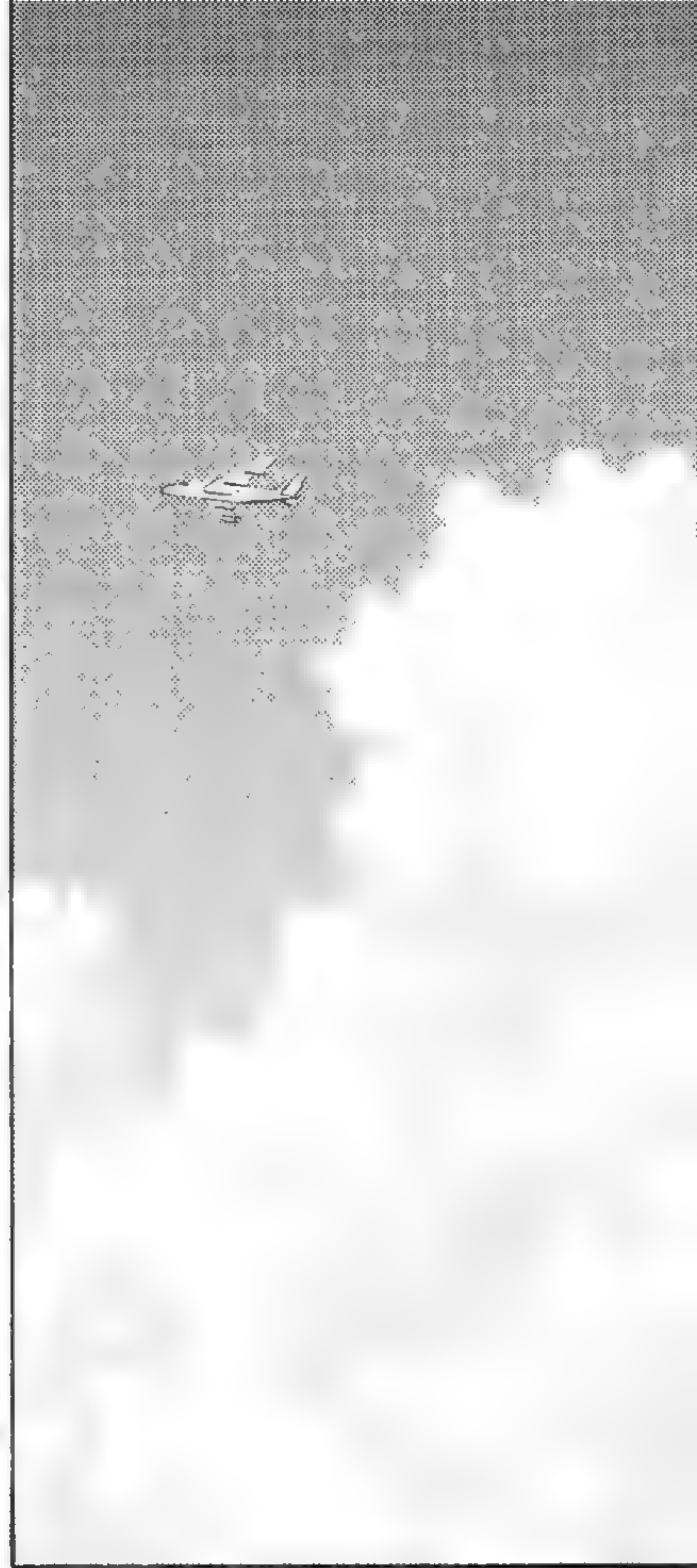
...I CAN'T
HELP
FEELING
THAT SAI...



...IF I
EVER
PLAY GO
AGAIN...

IF I THINK
ABOUT
WANTING
TO
PLAY...







KADOWAKI,
THE
FORMER
TRIPLE
CROWN
STUDENT
PLAYER, IS
IN THEM.

THE PRO
TEST
PRELIMS
ARE JUST
AROUND
THE
CORNER.

Go Weekly



IT'S
FINALLY
BEGINNING
NEXT
WEEK.



FORFEIT?

WHAT?



I'LL TAKE
A LOOK
AT LAST
WEEK'S
RESULTS.

I WONDER
HOW
THOSE
GUYS ARE
DOING?



WAYA
DIDN'T HAVE
A MATCH.
AND
SHINDO...?

OCHI...
LOOKS LIKE
HE BEAT
MASHIBA.

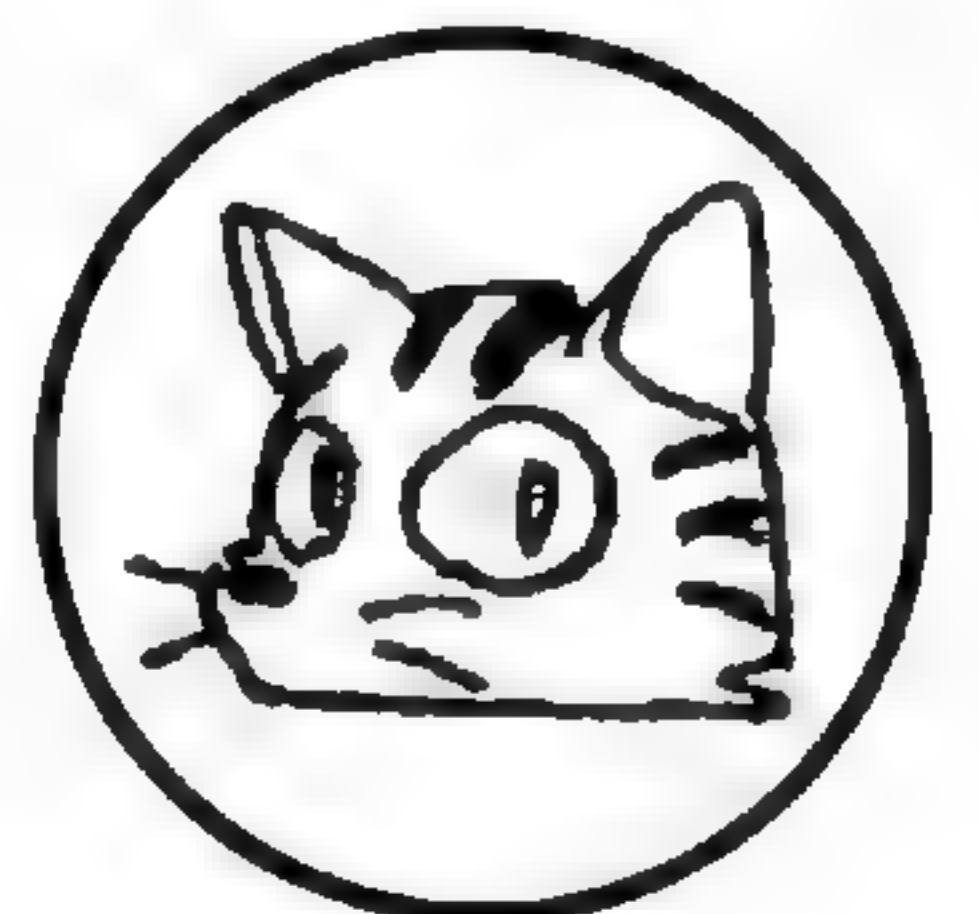
A WORD ABOUT HIKARU NO GO

THE PHONE IN THE TRAINING ROOM



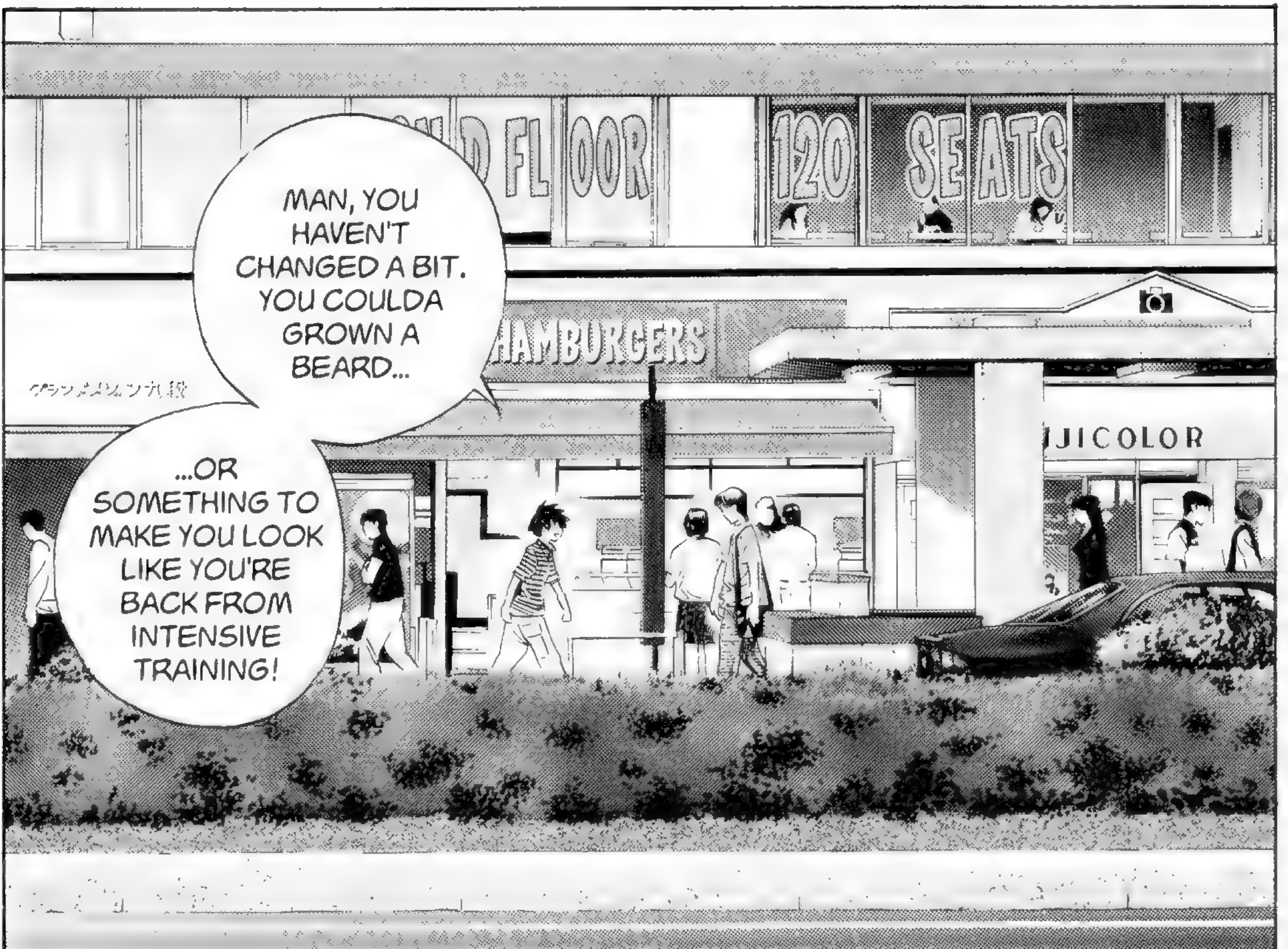
THIS PHONE IS ONLY FOR INCOMING CALLS
(INTERNATIONAL CALLS INCLUDED). SOMETIMES THE
PLAYERS GET PHONE CALLS. THERE ARE YOUTH IN
THEIR EARLY TEENS, AND THEIR PARENTS GET WORRIED
AND CALL TO SAY **ARE YOU OKAY?!!**

THERE WAS A FATHER WHO CAME ON A SUNDAY TO
SEE HIS KID.





Game 138
"Visitor"







HE'S A
LITTLE KID,
ALL RIGHT.
A kid...

...HE WAS ALWAYS
GLARING AT ME
LIKE HE WANTED
TO BITE MY
HEAD OFF.

IT WAS ALL WELL
AND GOOD THAT LE
PING WANTED TO
STICK TO MY SIDE
AND STUDY ALL THE
TIME, BUT...

THAT'S
RIGHT.

[Note: *a popular herbal anti-diarrheal pill.]



YOU KNOW
HOW YOU
ALWAYS TAKE
SEIROGAN
WHEN YOU
GET
NAUSEOUS?
IT WORKS
RIGHT AWAY
FOR YOU.

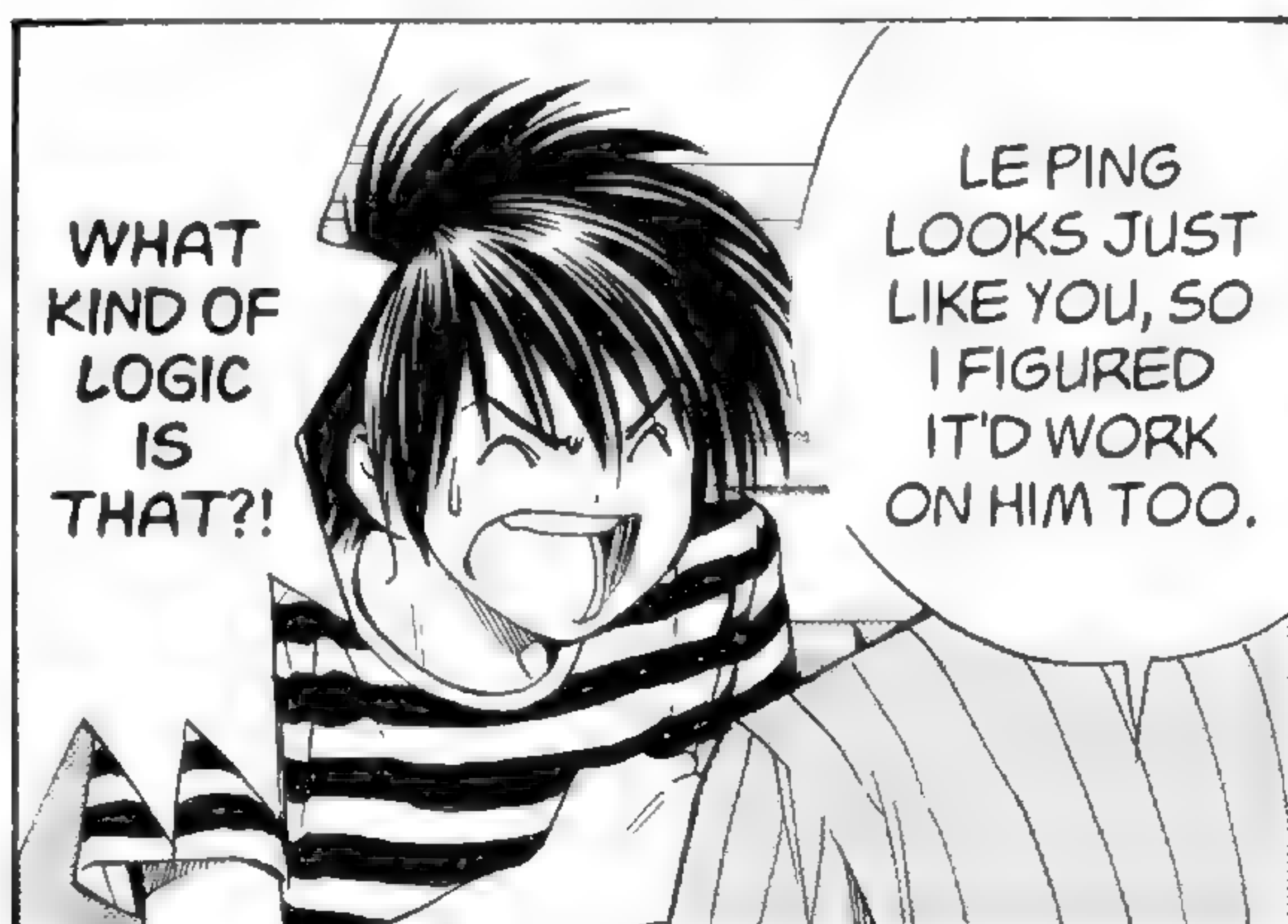
WHEN HE
HAD A
STOMACH-
ACHE I GAVE
HIM SOME
OF THE
SEIROGAN
I'D
BROUGHT.



IN THE END, THOUGH,
I CONNECTED WITH
HIM MAINLY
BECAUSE OF
SEIROGAN* PILLS.

A KID, YES,
BUT HE'S
INCREDIBLY
STRONG!

SEIROGAN?



WHAT
KIND OF
LOGIC
IS
THAT?!

LE PING
LOOKS JUST
LIKE YOU, SO
I FIGURED
IT'D WORK
ON HIM TOO.



SO HOW
DID YOUR
REMATCH
WITH
ZHAO SHI
GO?

IT WORKED
LIKE A
CHARM AND
WE BECAME
FRIENDS.



...AMONG
THE TOP
PLAYERS
AND RISING
STARS OF
CHINA.

I EXTENDED
MY VISA WHILE I
WAS THERE AND
SPENT TWO
MONTHS PLAYING
AS MUCH GO AS
I COULD...



ZHAO
GOT
YANG HAI'S
MP3
PLAYER.

I
LOST.

...



WE
PLAYED
A LOT
AFTER
THAT.

BUT I WON
THE NEXT
GAME!



AND
I GAINED
CONFIDENCE
IN MY GAME.

BUT I
MANAGED TO
WIN AGAINST
A FEW OF
THEM.

IT WAS
TOUGH,
I TELL
YOU!



BUT...

miin
miin

IT'S TRUE.
WE'RE ALL
BAFFLED.

[cicadas]

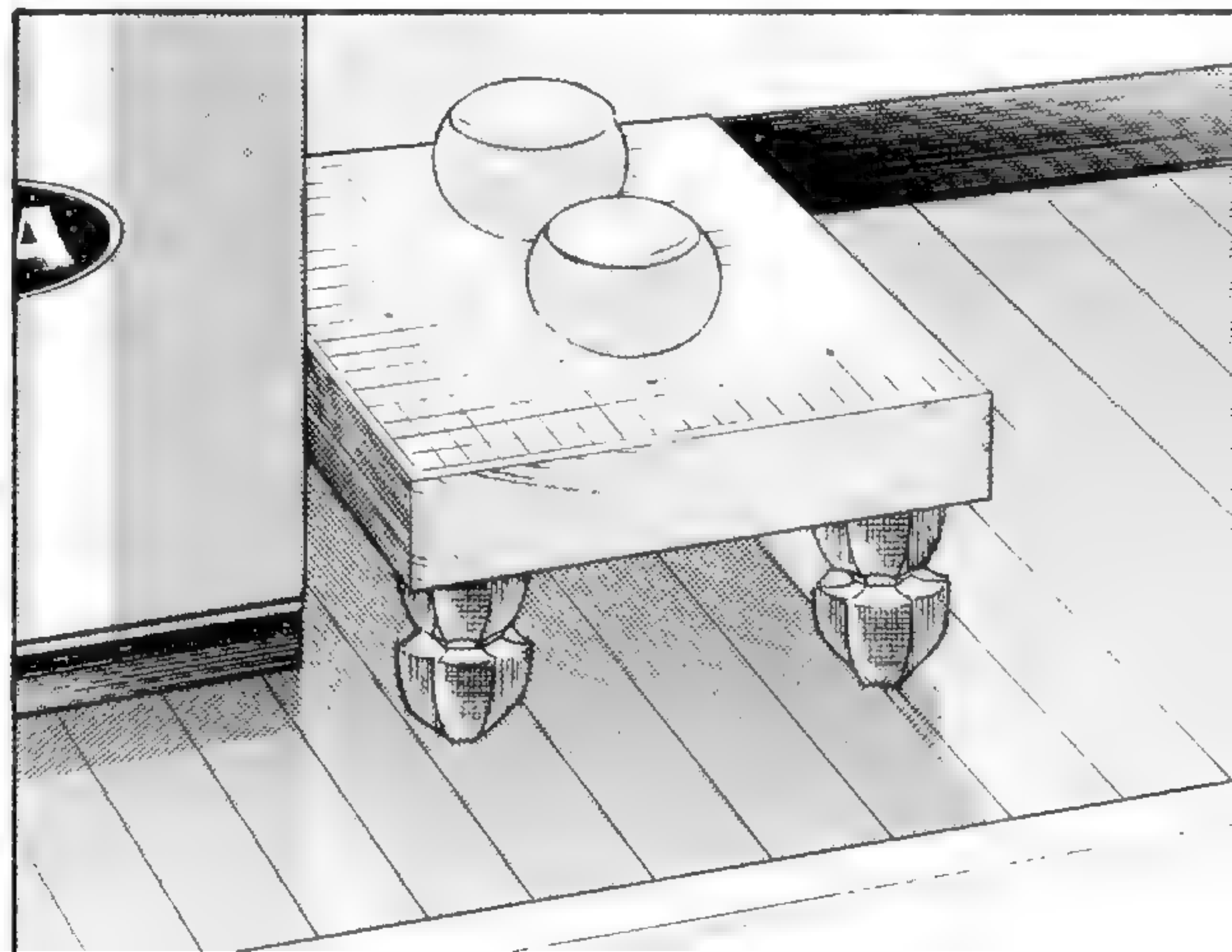
...IT SEEMS LIKE
HE DOESN'T
WANT TO PLAY
GO ANYMORE.

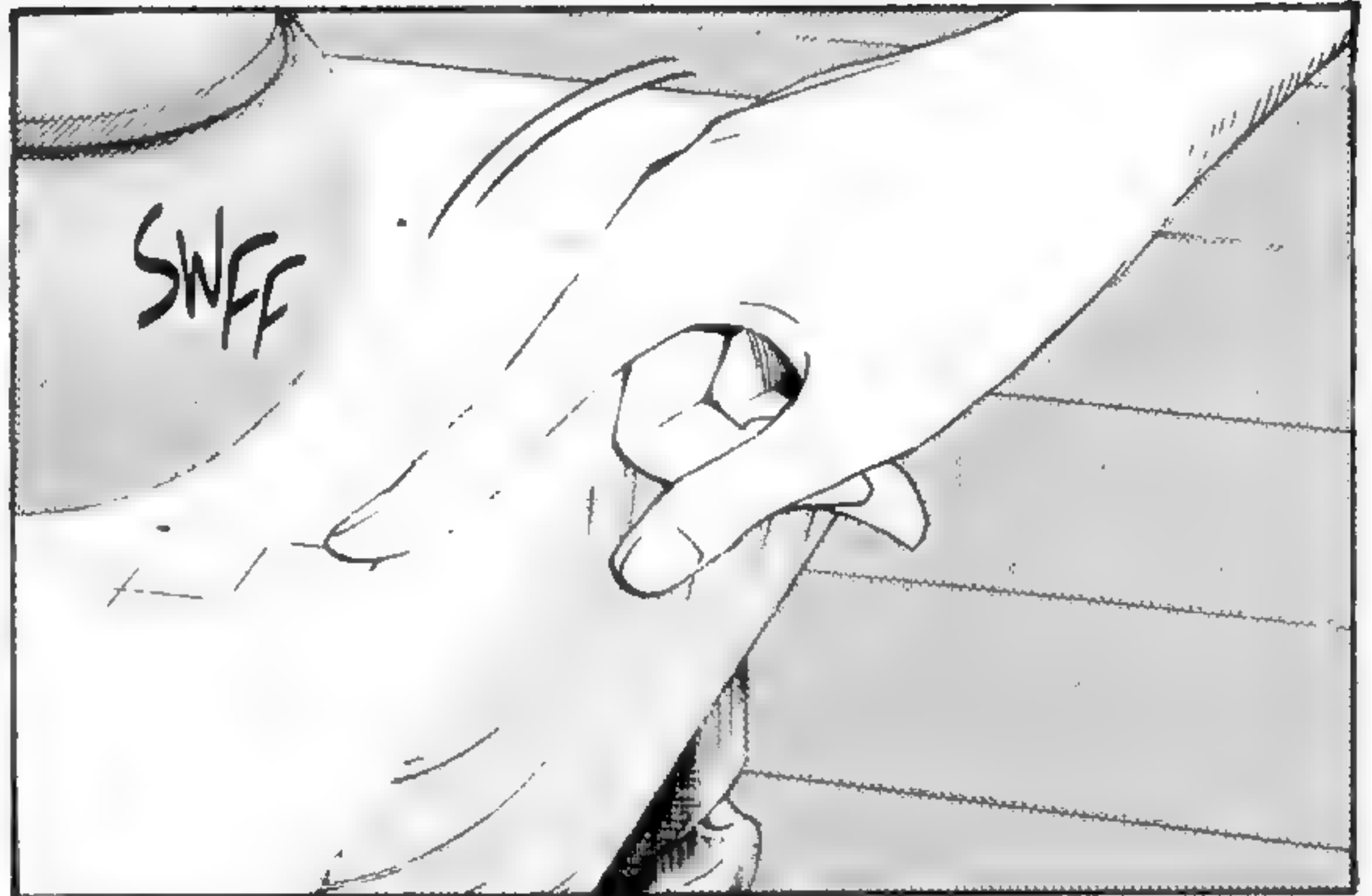


SORRY TO
DROP BY
WITHOUT
CALLING.

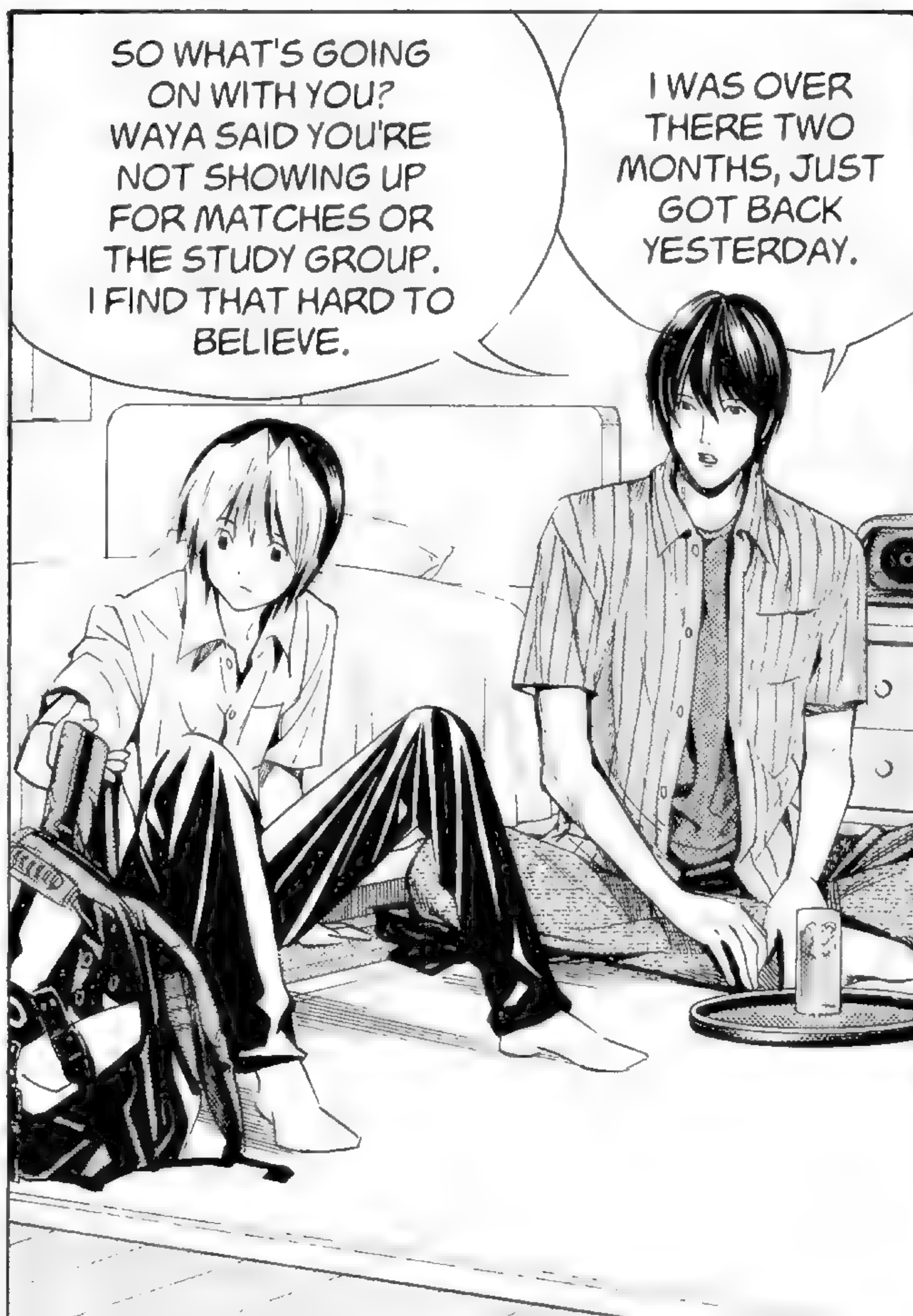
DING
DONG













DON'T YOU KNOW?
HE'S CHALLENGING
PLAYERS AT AN
IMPRESSIVE
LEVEL.

?



DID YOU FEEL
HE'S RISEN
TOO FAR OUT
OF REACH?
IS THAT WHY
YOU LOST
YOUR
MOTIVATION?

YOU USED
TO SAY
TOYA WAS
YOUR
RIVAL.



TOYA HAS
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH IT.

AND WHADDAYA
MEAN "RISEN
TOO FAR OUT
OF REACH"?



TOYA!
HE'S
ALREADY
A 3 DAN?

PLAYERS
WHO ROSE
A RANK...

SEE
WHAT'S
ON FOR
TODAY?

LOOK
ABOVE
THAT,
WHERE IT
LISTS THIS
WEEK'S
MATCHES.



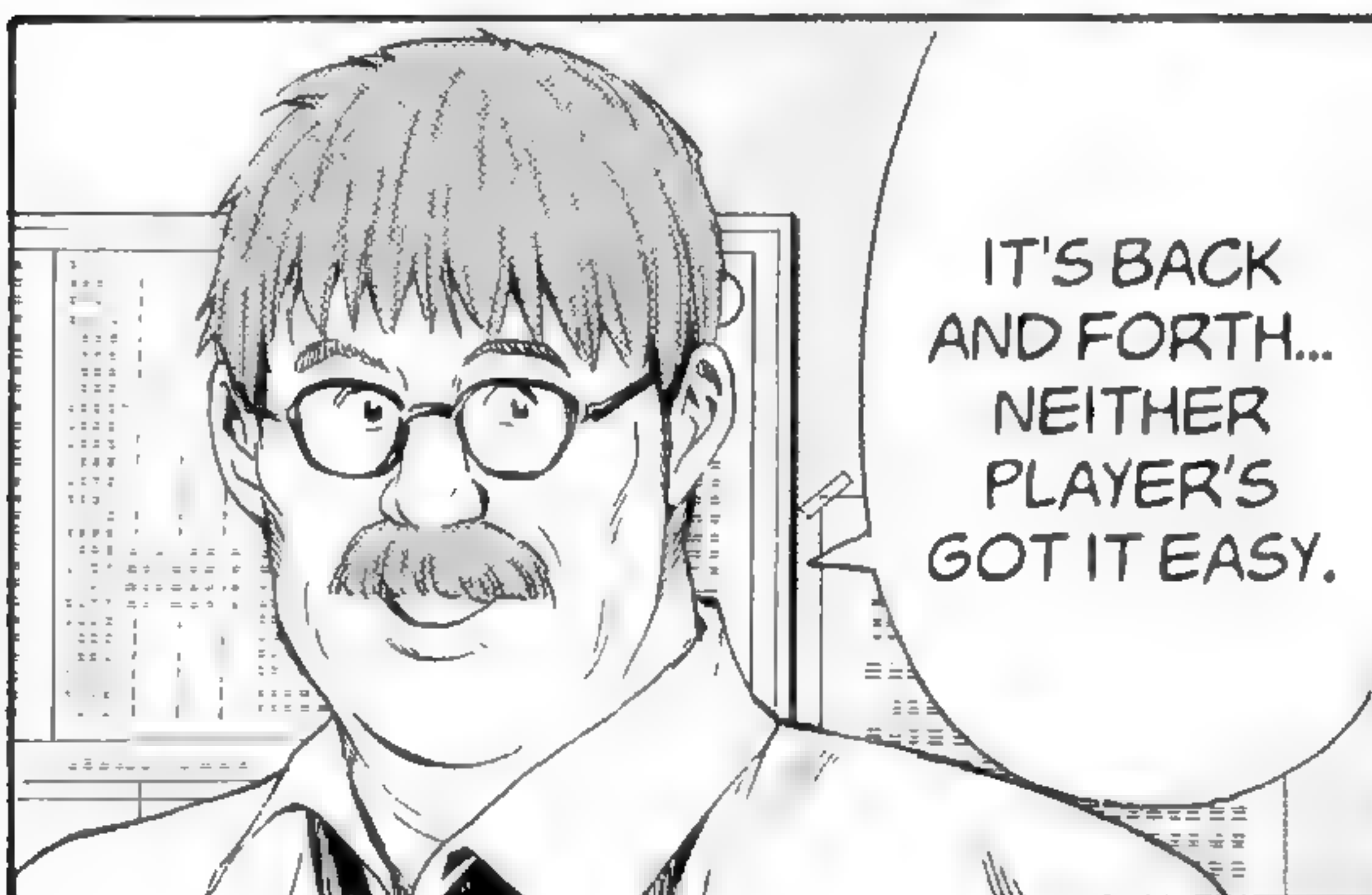
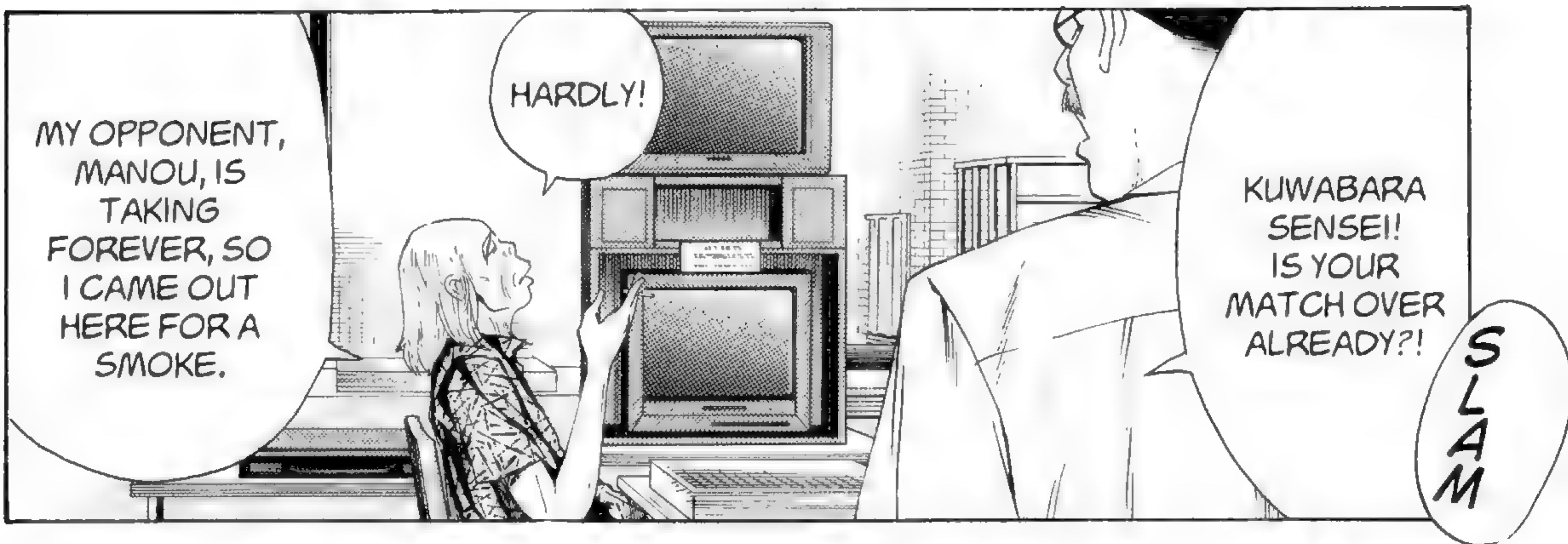
THE FINALS OF
THE THIRD
PRELIMINARY?!



...THIRD
PRELIMI-
NARY FOR
THE
HON'INBO
LEAGUE...

HAGIWARA
MASAHIKO
9 DAN...AND
TOYA AKIRA
3 DAN, IN
THE FINALS
OF THE...







HE'S A 3 DAN
AT AGE 15!
AND THEN TO
QUALIFY FOR
THE HON'INBO
LEAGUE IN ONLY
HIS SECOND
YEAR AS
A PRO!!

BUT
WHAT AN
ACHIEVEMENT
FOR TOYA IF
HE WINS!

HMPH!



BUT IF YOUNG
TOYA JOINS THE
COMPETITION TO
BECOME YOUR
CHALLENGER
NEXT YEAR, I'D
SAY THE NEW
WAVE IS FINALLY
COMING UP!

IN THIS YEAR'S
HON'INBO, KURATA
CAME CLOSE BUT
LOST TO YOU,
KUWABARA SENSEI.



I AM NOT THE
LEAST BIT
WORRIED,
AMANO.

STRUGGLES
AND DOUBTS
ARE NECES-
SARY TOO.



SO LONG
AS TOYA
KEEPS
SHOOTING
UPWARDS,
SHINDO
WILL
FOLLOW.

THAT KID
CHASED
YOUNG TOYA
UP INTO THE
PRO WORLD.

SKOOT



YOU AND OGATA
SENSEI AND
EVEN TOYA
KOYO SENSEI
ALL HAD YOUR
EYES ON HIM.

I WONDER
WHAT
HAPPENED TO
SHINDO?



YOU SPEAK AS IF
THE FATES HAVE
DESTINED
SHINDO TO BE
TOYA'S RIVAL.
I DON'T KNOW,
I THINK YOU'RE...

...OVERES-
TIMATING
HIM.



HE'LL BE
BACK TO
FACE HIS
TRUE
OPPONENT.

THAT KID
WILL BE
BACK, I
GUARANTEE.



KCHK

HARDLY.

IT'S NOT JUST
MY VIEW.
TOYA AKIRA
BELIEVES IT
HIMSELF.





HOW
STRONG HAS
HE BECOME,
ISUMI?



IF HE WINS
TODAY, HE'LL
PLAY IN THE
LEAGUE WITH
THE TOP
EIGHT PROS.

TOYA!
HE'S
RISING SO
FAR, SO
FAST!

Go Weekly



OH... UH...
IT'S NOT LIKE
I'M THAT
INTERESTED...

B-BESIDES...
IF I WANT TO QUIT
PLAYING GO,
WELL, THAT'S MY
BUSINESS!

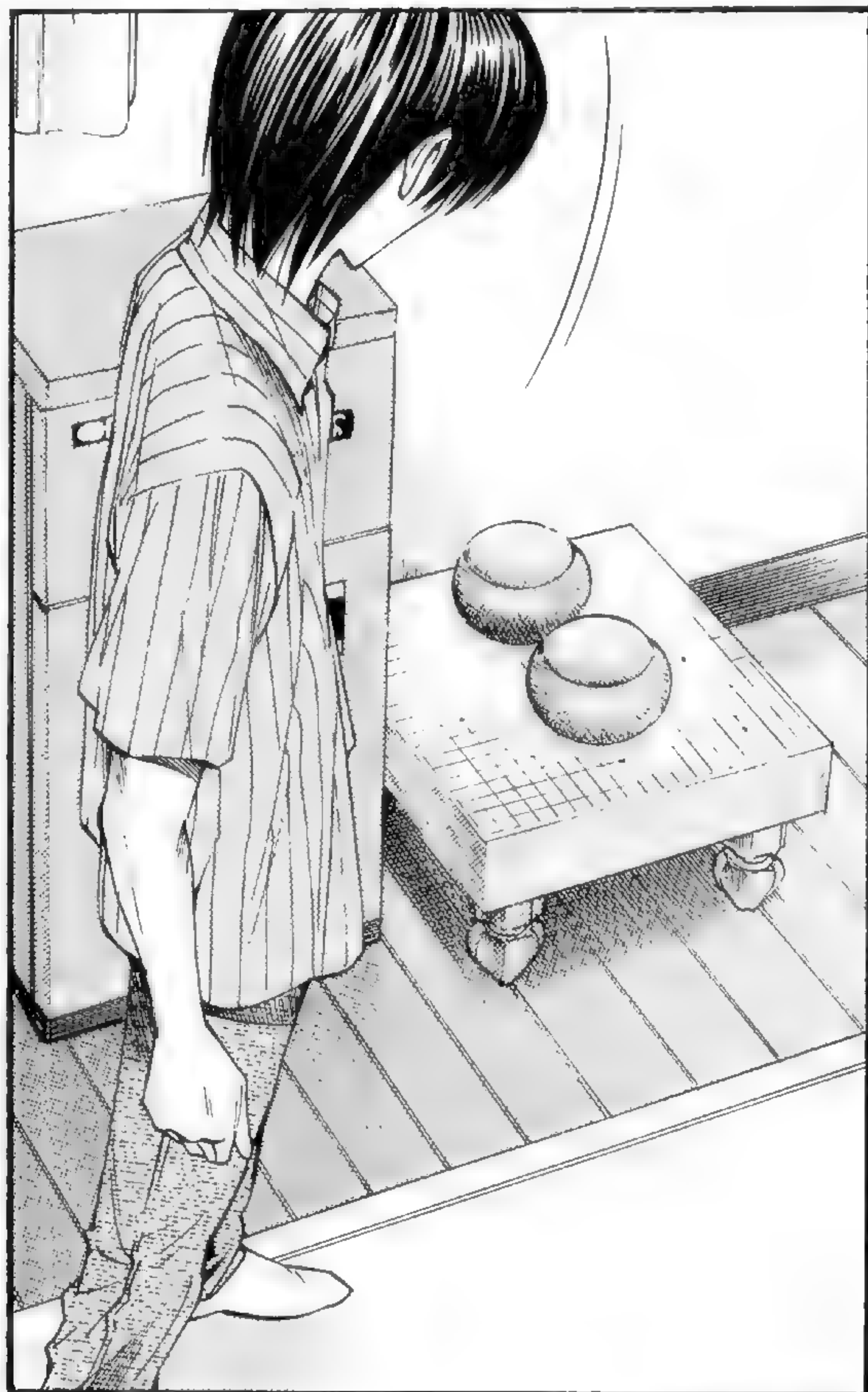
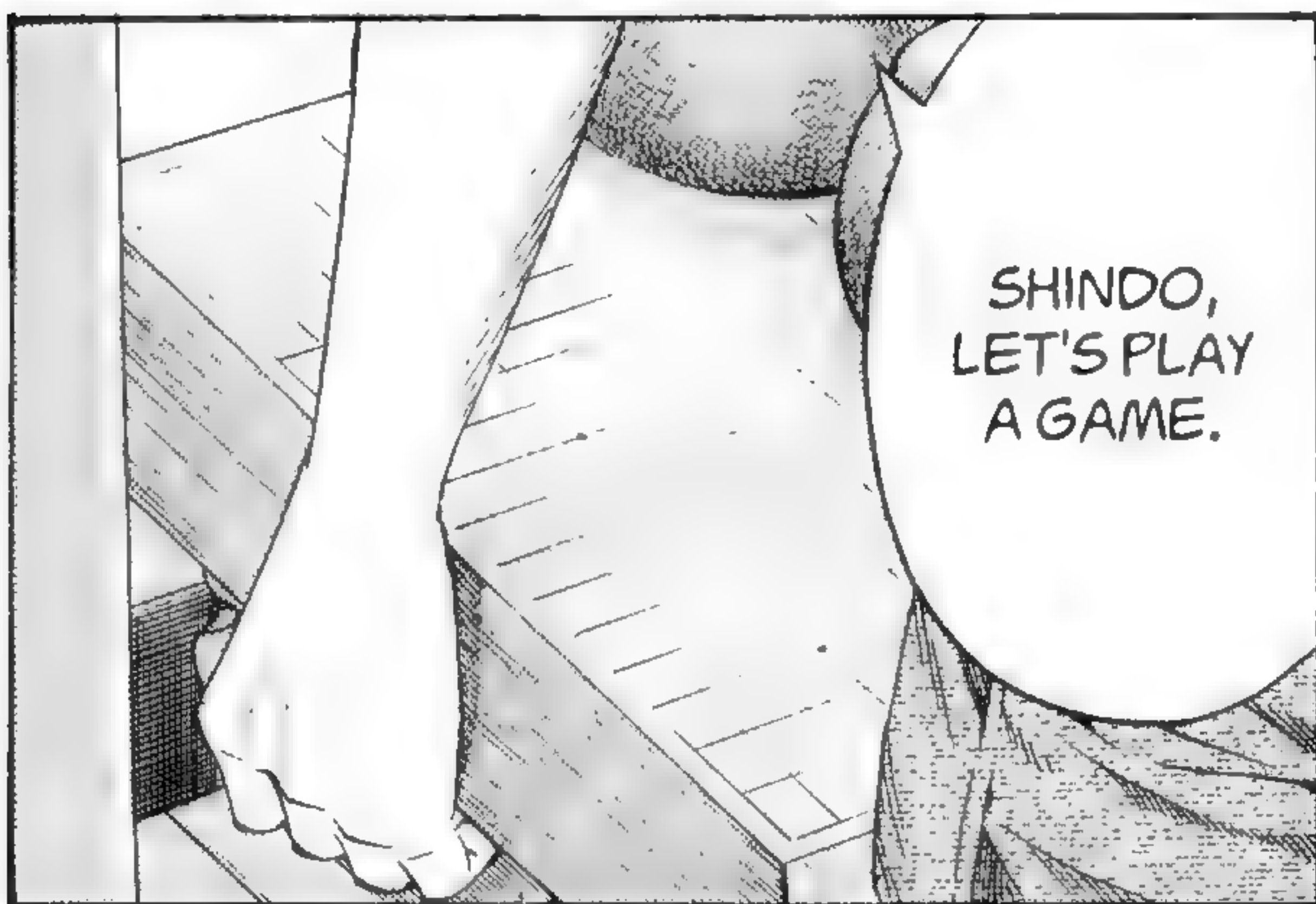
FWSH

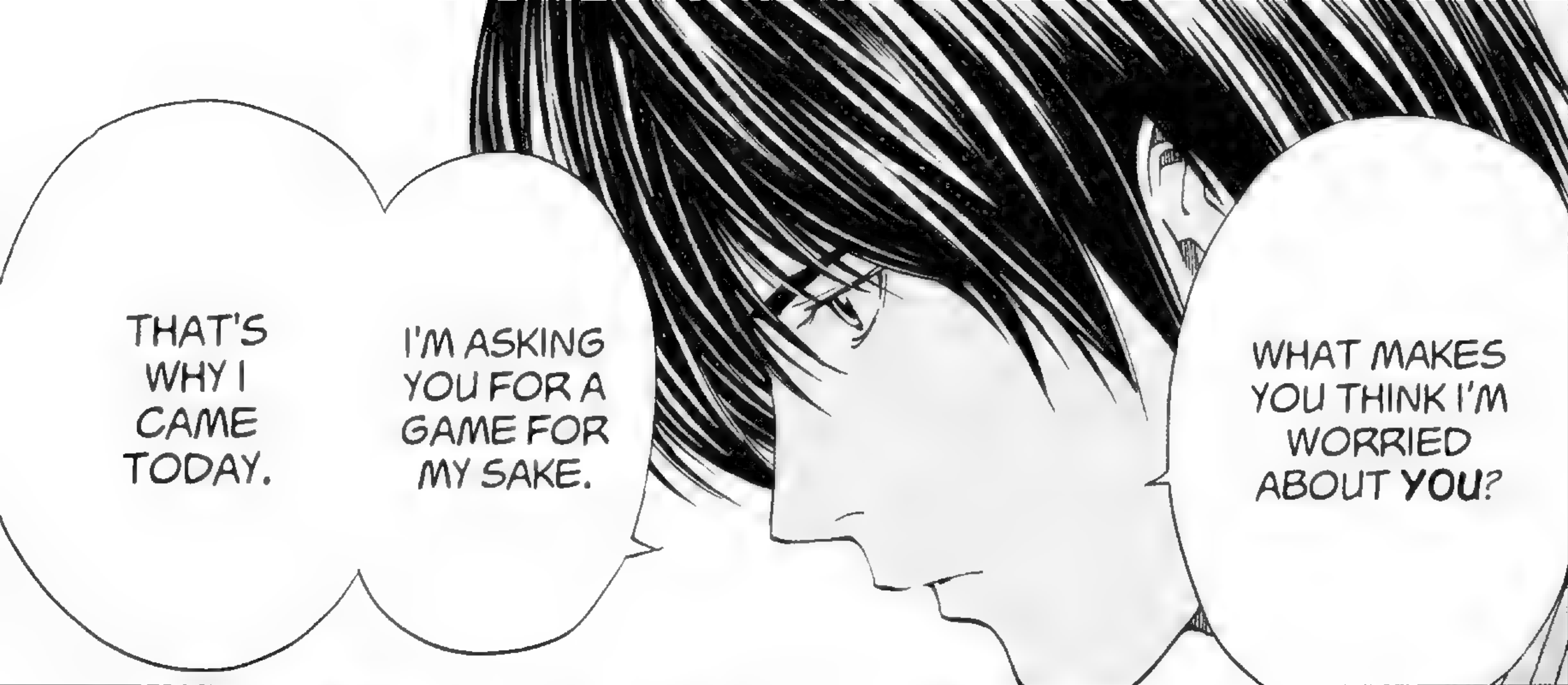
FWSH



THEN WHY ON
EARTH AREN'T
YOU PLAYING?!

SO YOU'VE
STILL GOT
SOME
PASSION, EH?





THAT'S
WHY I
CAME
TODAY.

I'M ASKING
YOU FOR A
GAME FOR
MY SAKE.

WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU?



HUH?

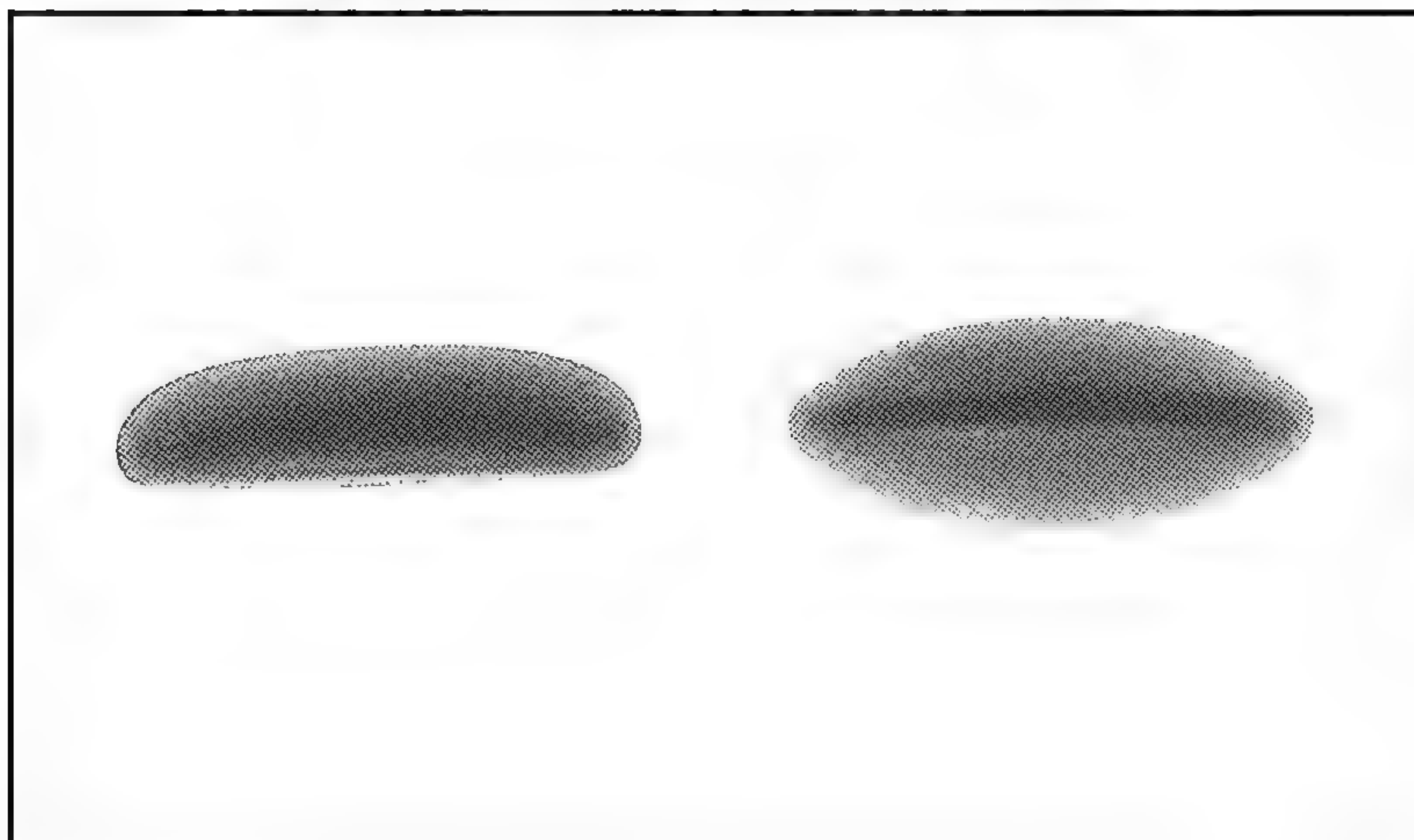


SHINDO,
REMEMBER
THE PRO
TEST LAST
YEAR?

YOU RECALL
OUR GAME
TOGETHER?

A WORD ABOUT HIKARU NO GO

CHINESE GO STONES

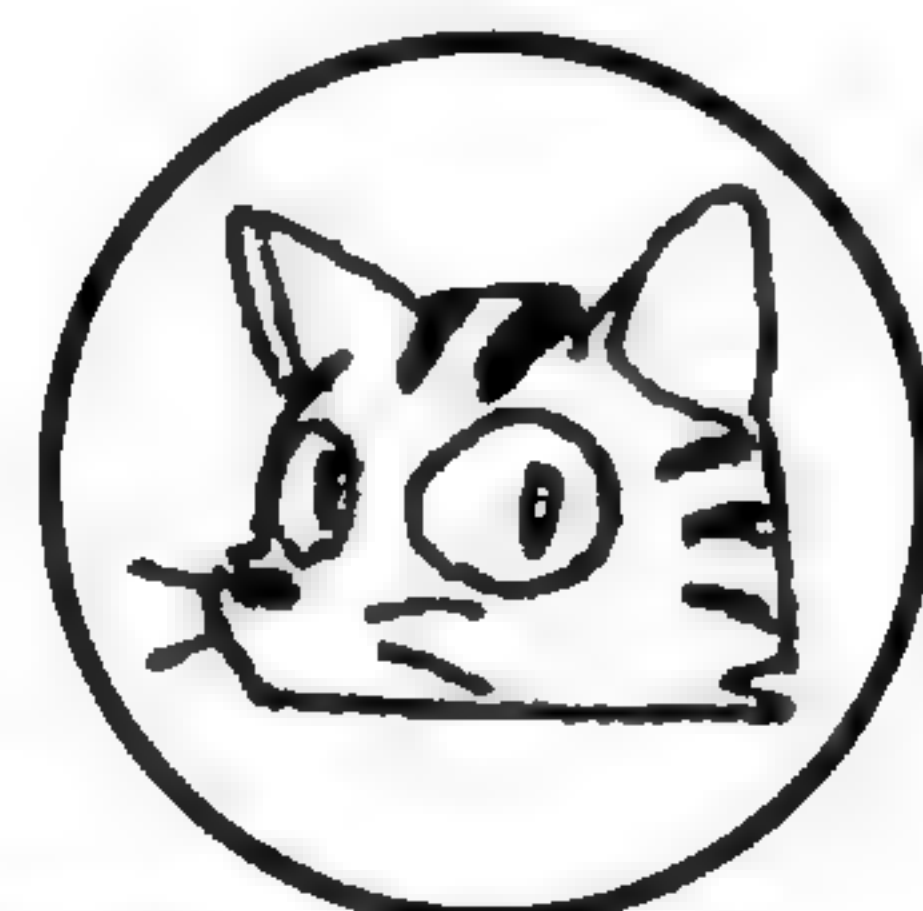


THE GO STONE ON THE RIGHT IS A JAPANESE STONE AS SEEN FROM THE SIDE. IT IS ROUNDED BOTH ON THE TOP AND BOTTOM.

TO THE LEFT IS A CHINESE GO STONE.

ONE SIDE IS FLAT. THE CLACK OF THE STONE HITTING THE BOARD IS DIFFERENT THAN WITH JAPANESE STONES.

AND WHILE I'M ON THE TOPIC, KOREAN STONES ARE THE SAME AS JAPANESE STONES.



Game 139

"From This Game Forward"

SHINDO HIKARU

VS
MITSURU







I...

THAT'S
TRUE OF
THE TOP
PLAYERS
AS WELL AS
FOR YOU
GUYS.

AND
THOUGH
WE'RE
COMPETING
AGAINST
EACH OTHER,
WE'RE
WALKING
THE SAME
PATH.



THE
PATH
CON-
TINUES
FAR
BEYOND
THAT.

I HAVE MY
SIGHTS SET
ON THE
PRO TEST,
BUT IT'S
NOT MY
ULTIMATE
GOAL.

SURROUNDED
BY YOUNG PROS
STUDYING GO
FROM MORNING
TO NIGHT
CONFIRMED MY
OWN DESIRE TO
WALK THAT
PATH.

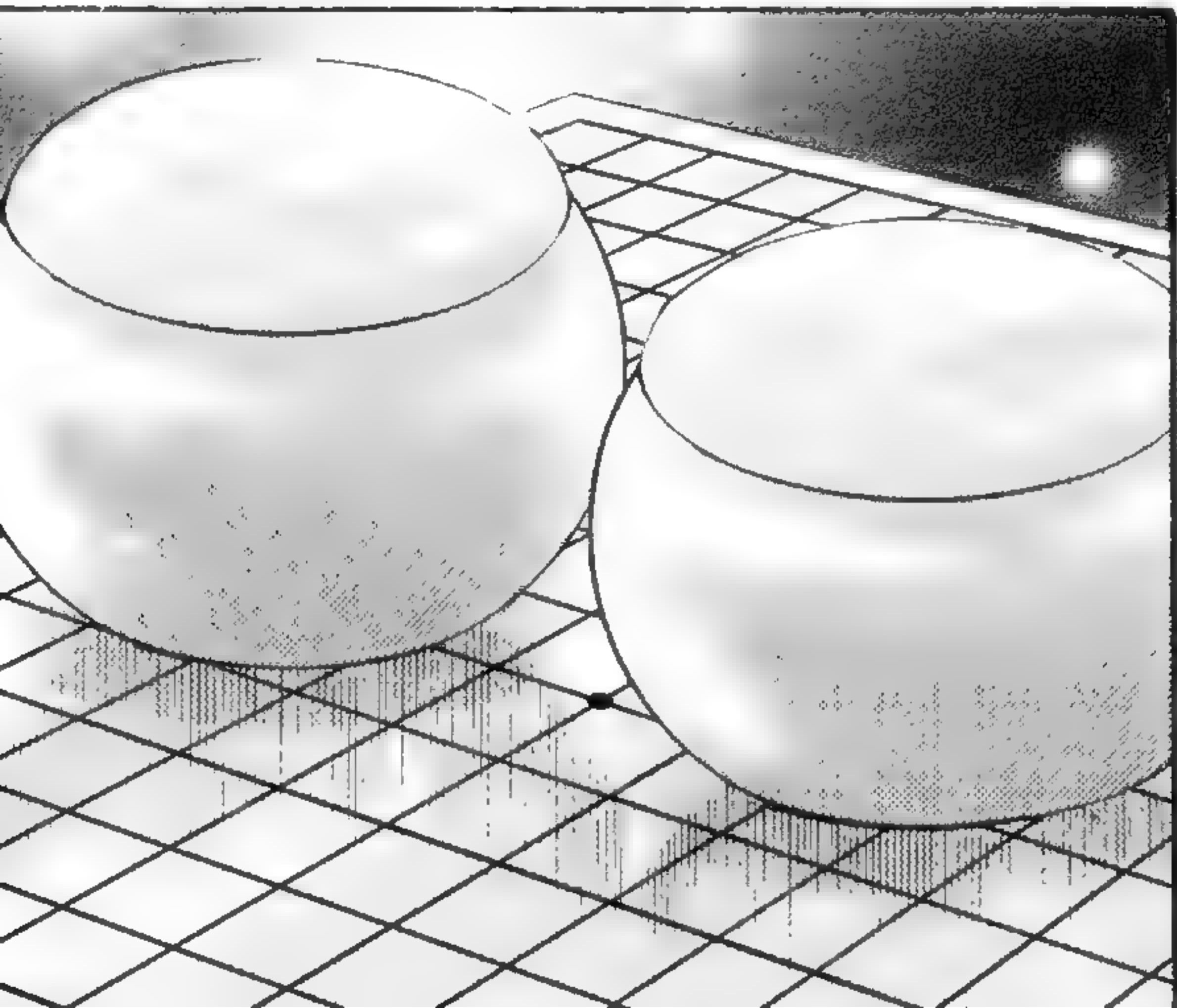


I'D HONESTLY
BE VERY SORRY
IF YOU DID.

AM I
WRONG?
ARE YOU
REALLY
GOING TO
RETIRE?



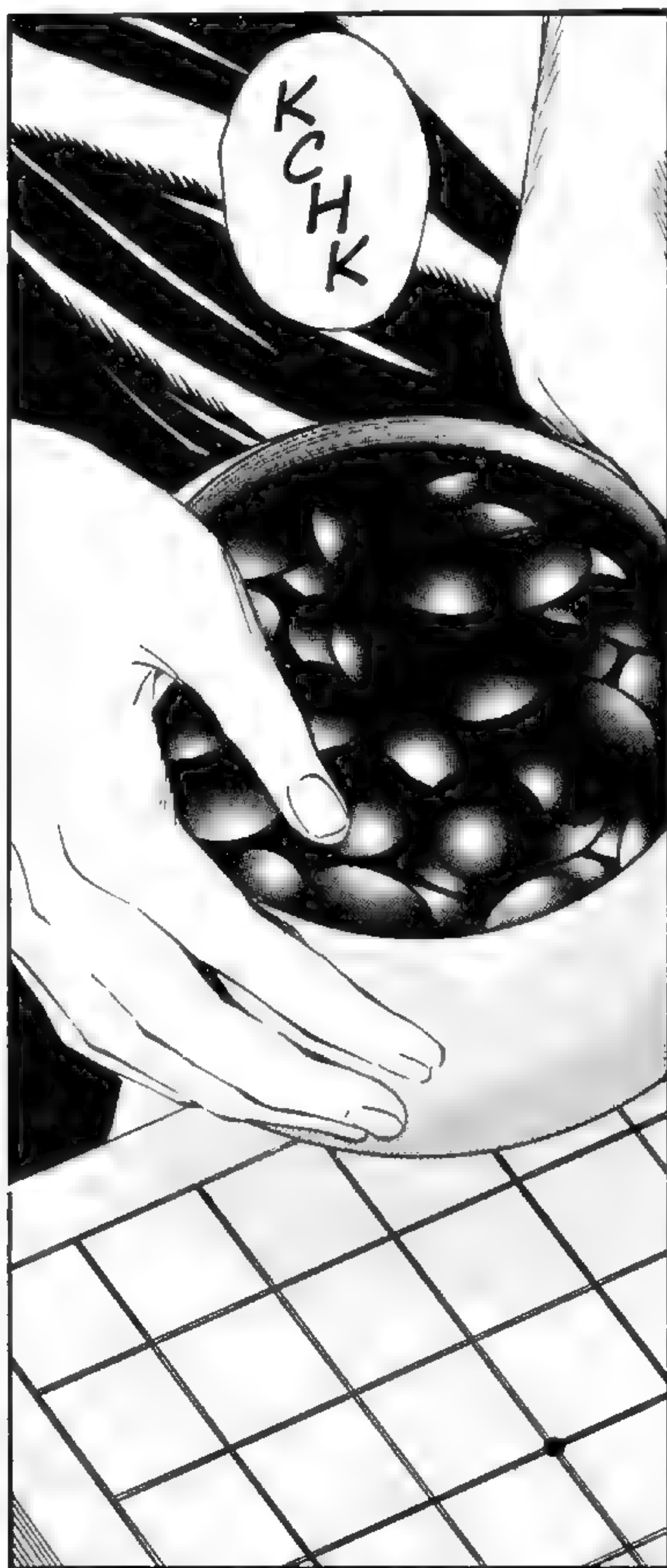
I... I...





SAI...

ALL
RIGHT.



K
C
H
K



IT'S NOT
BECAUSE
I WANT TO
PLAY,
OKAY?

THIS IS
FOR
ISUMI.

K
C
H
K

K
C
H
K

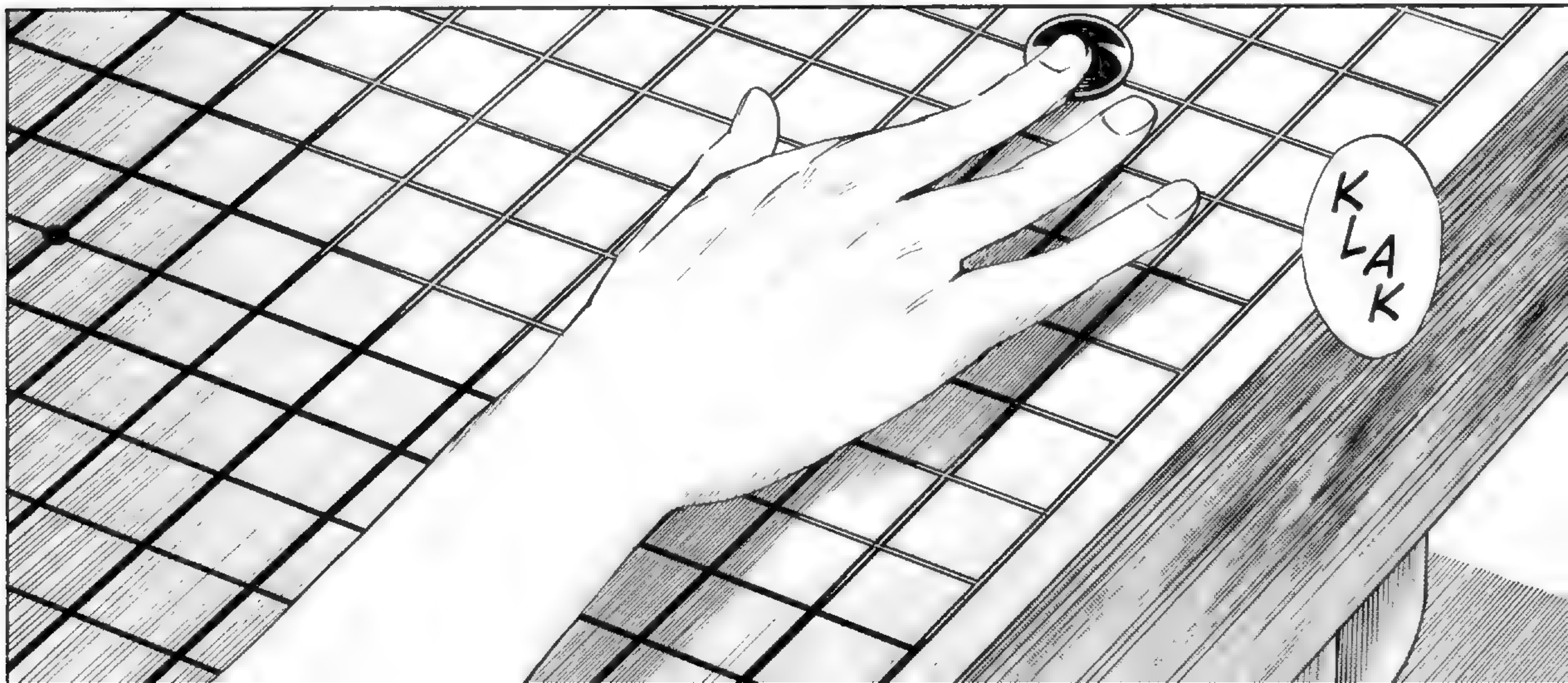
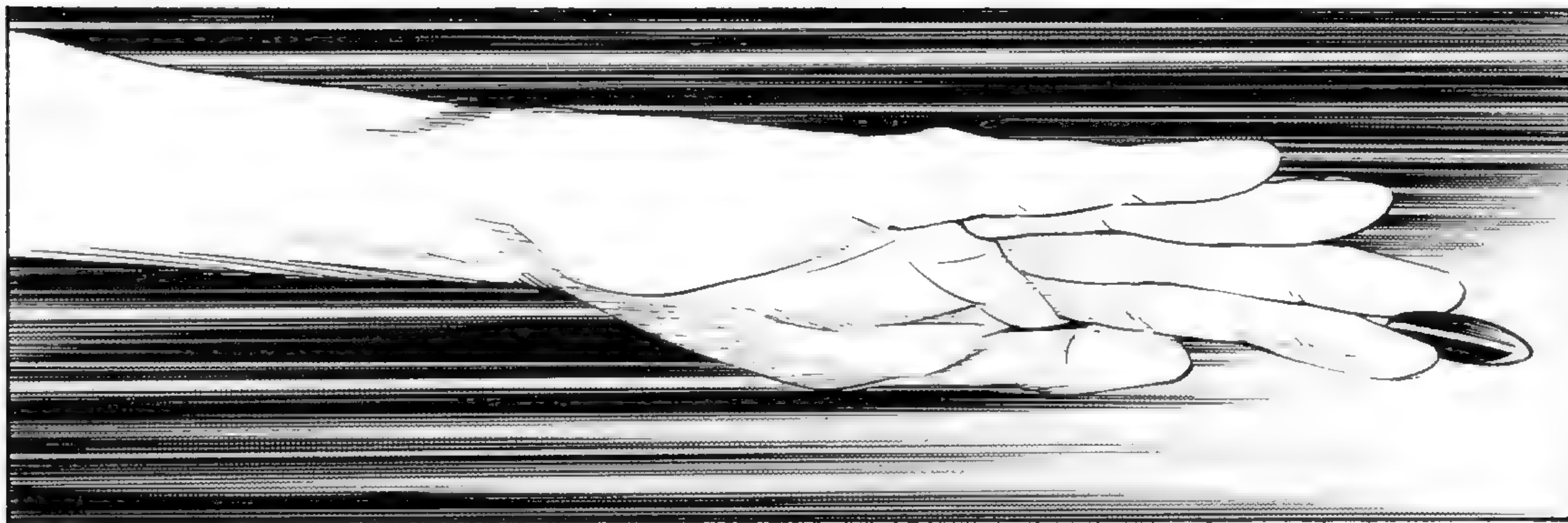


YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND
THAT, CAN'T
YOU?


ISUMI
WANTS A
CLEAN
START ON
THE PATH
OF GO.

READ
THIS
WAY









BOTH OF US ARE
DETERMINED TO WIN!
FOR HIM, WINNING
MEANS HIS FIRST
CHANCE TO MAKE IT
INTO THE LEAGUE.
FOR ME, IT'D BE MY
SECOND TIME—AND
IT'S BEEN SEVEN
YEARS SINCE MY
FIRST!

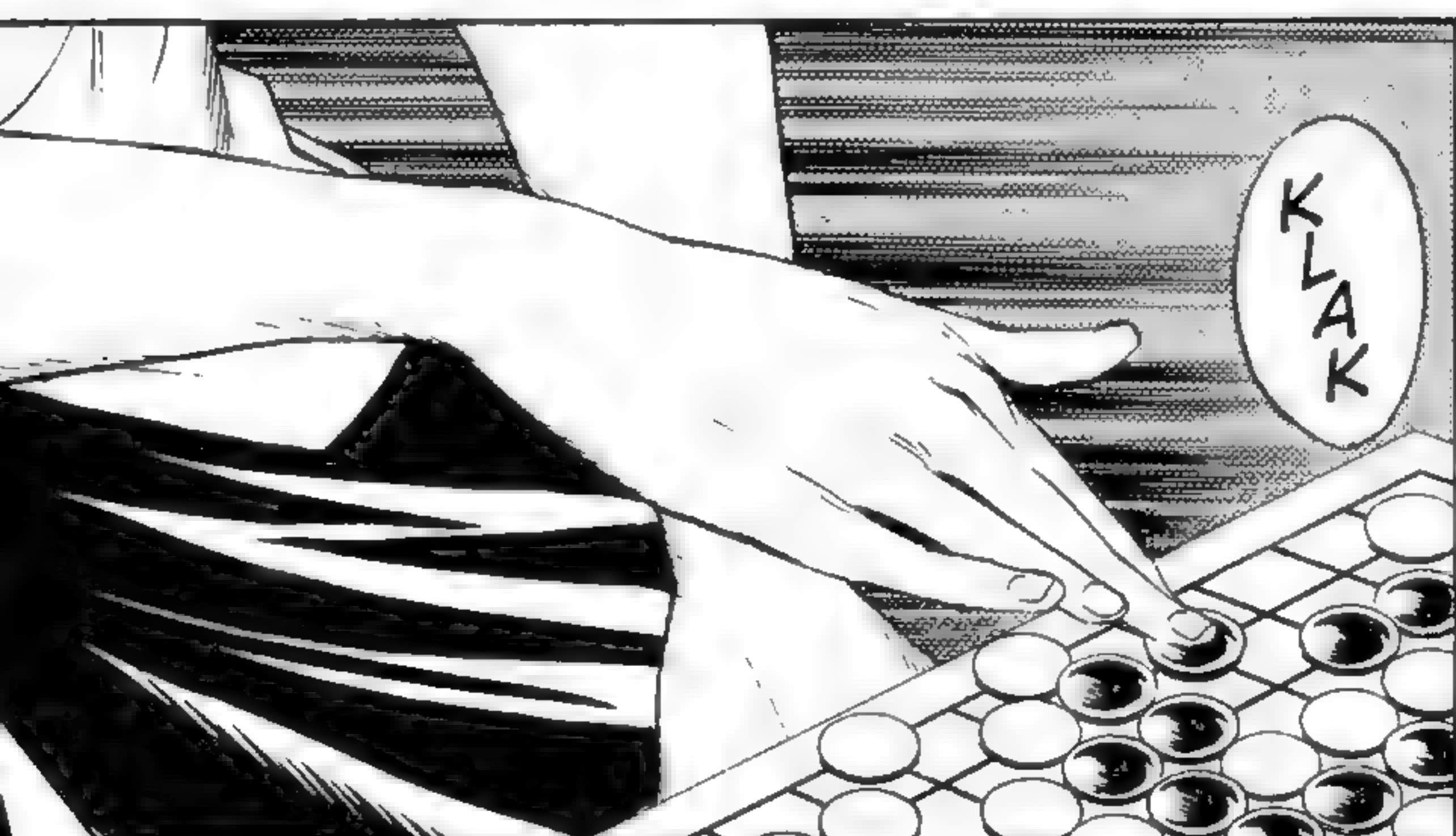
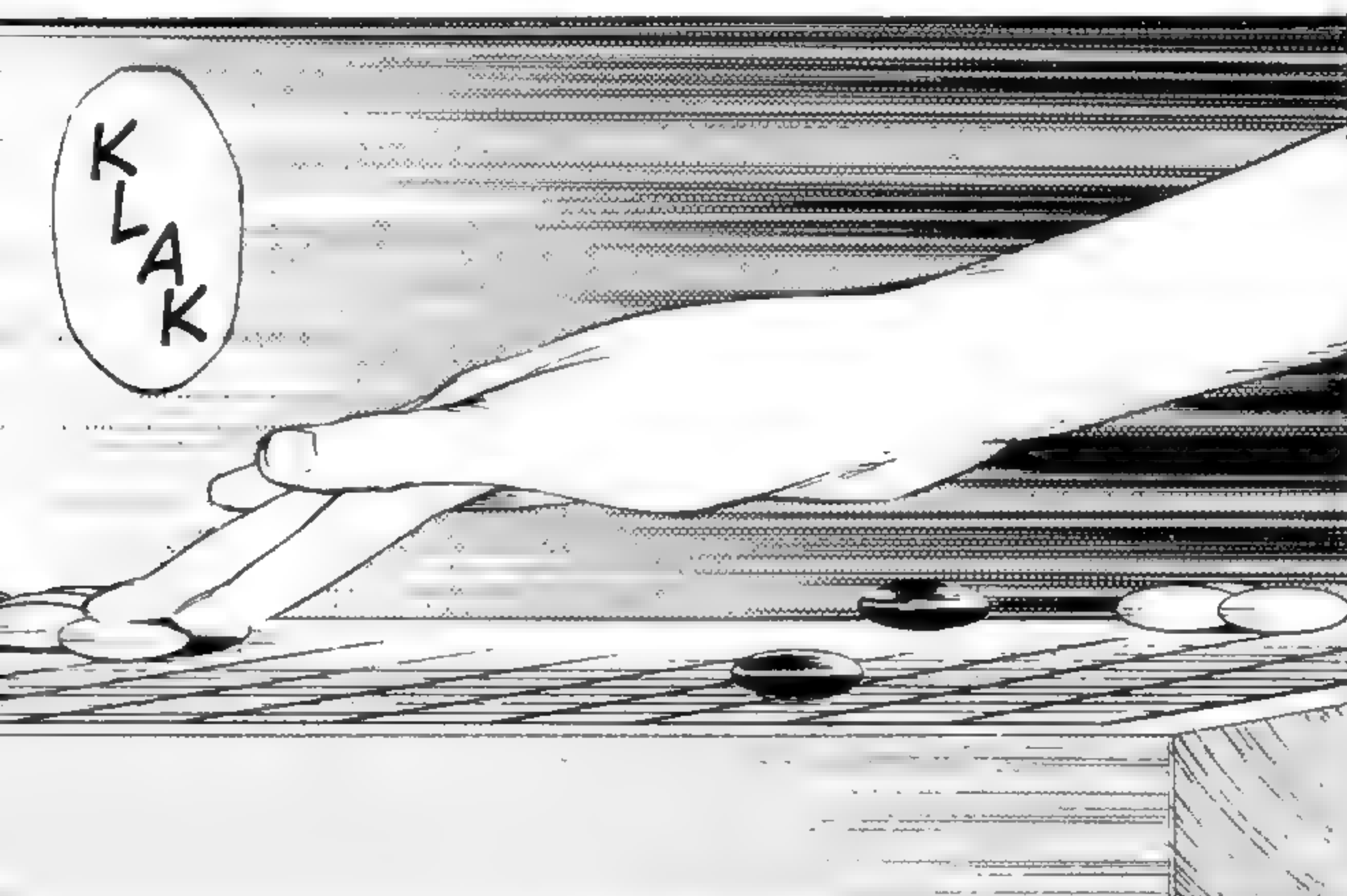
THE LOSER
HAS TO FIGHT
HIS WAY
THROUGH THE
PRELIMINARIES
AGAIN NEXT
YEAR.

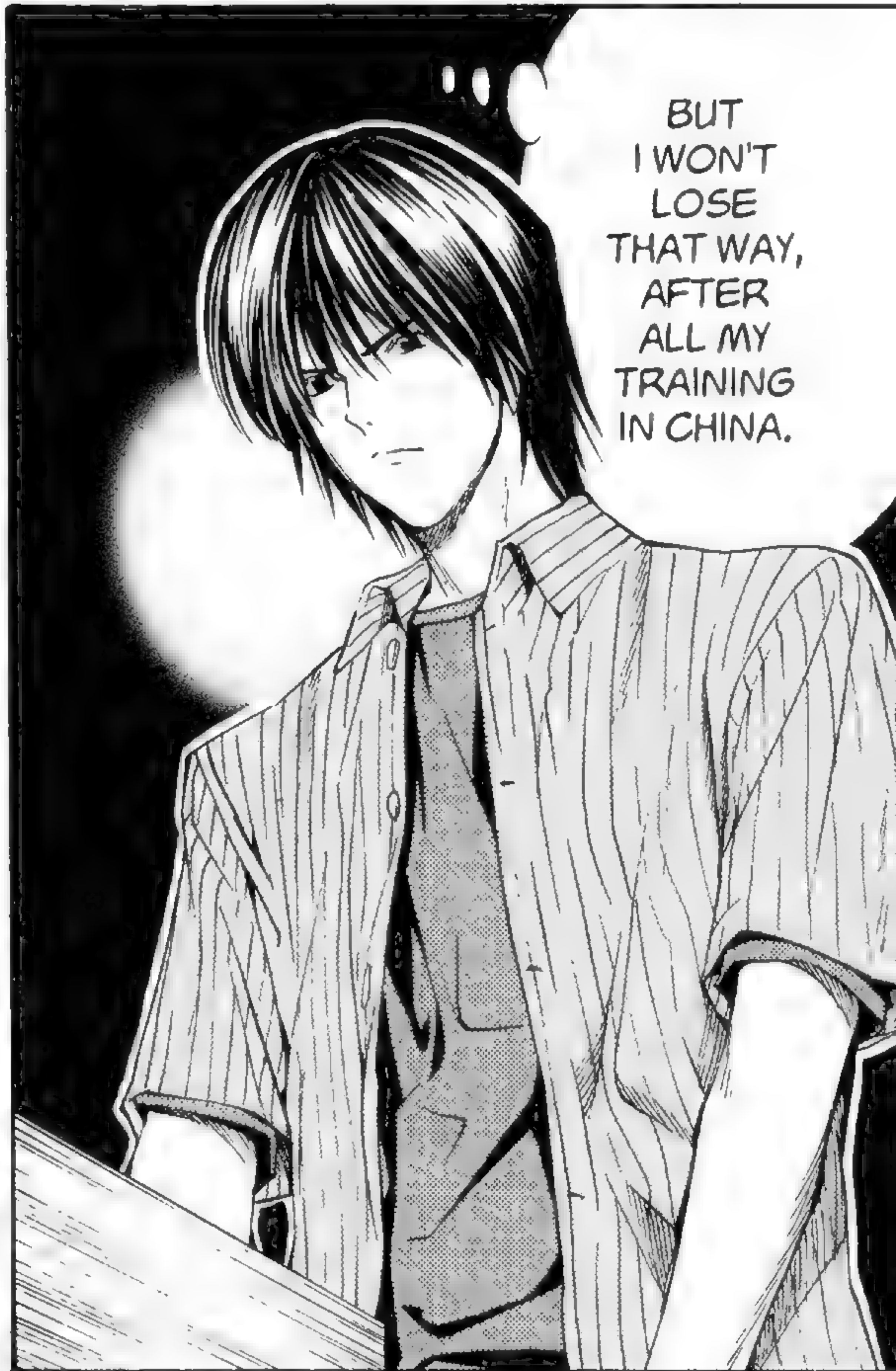
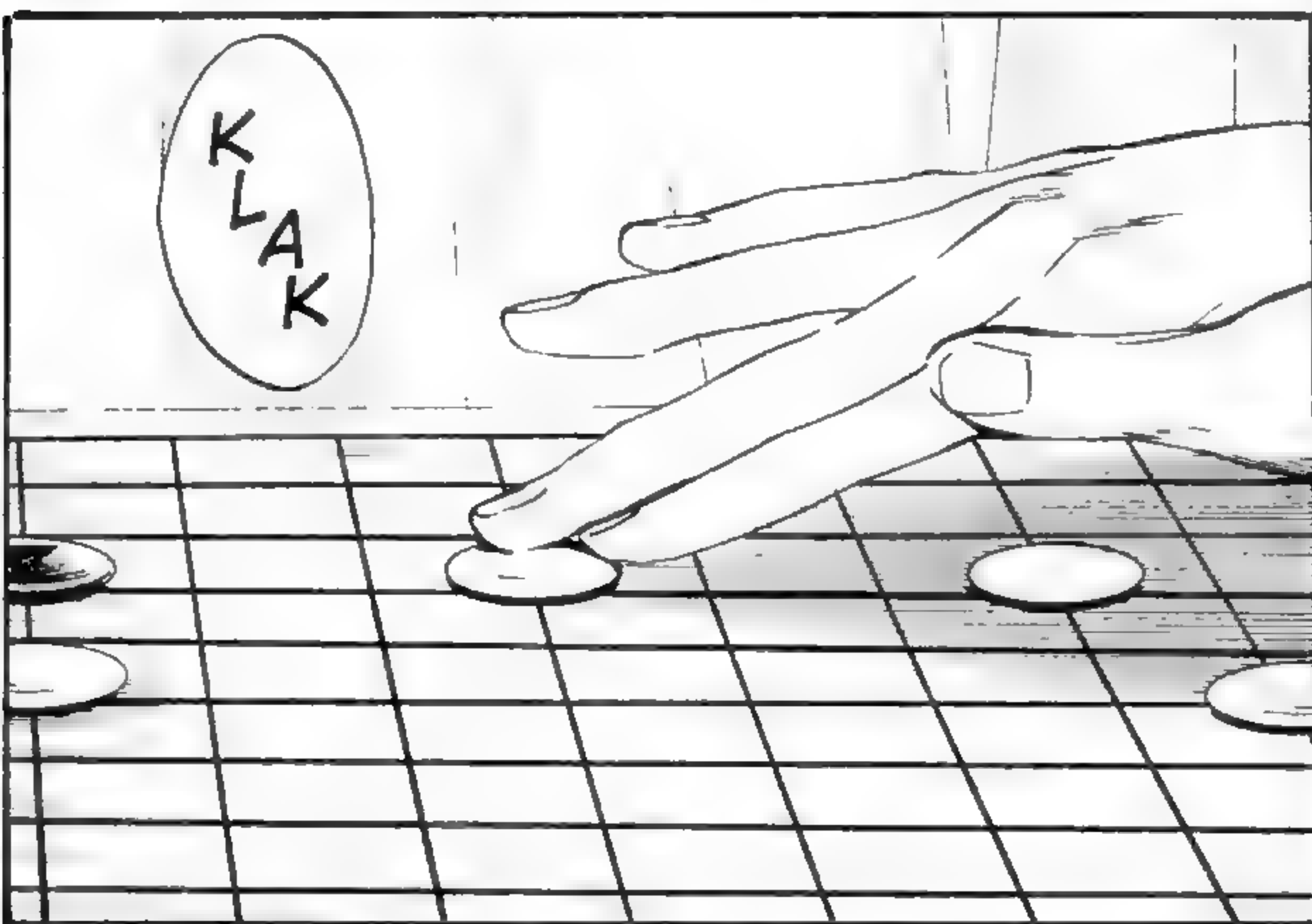
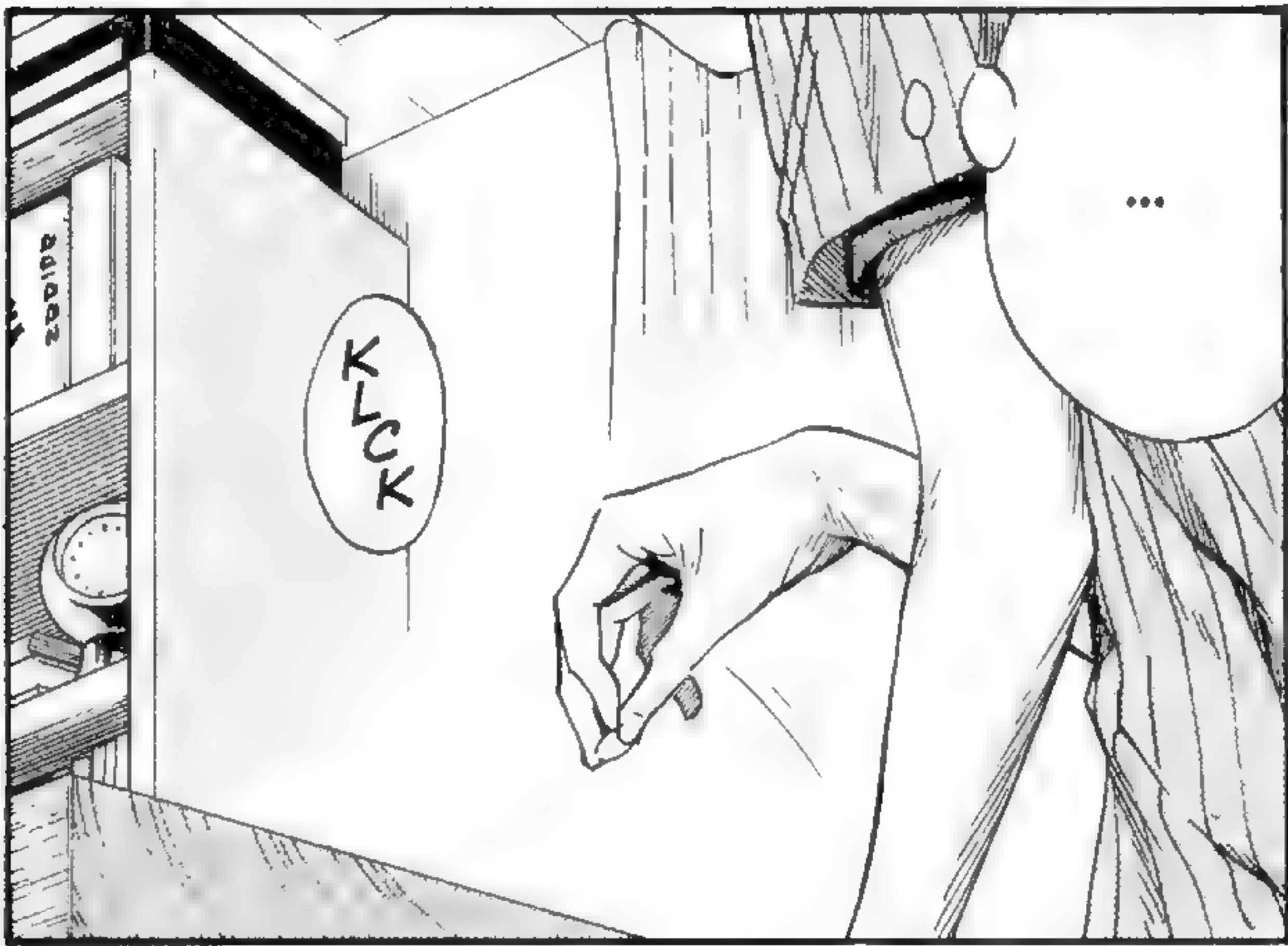


COME
ON,
SHINDO!!

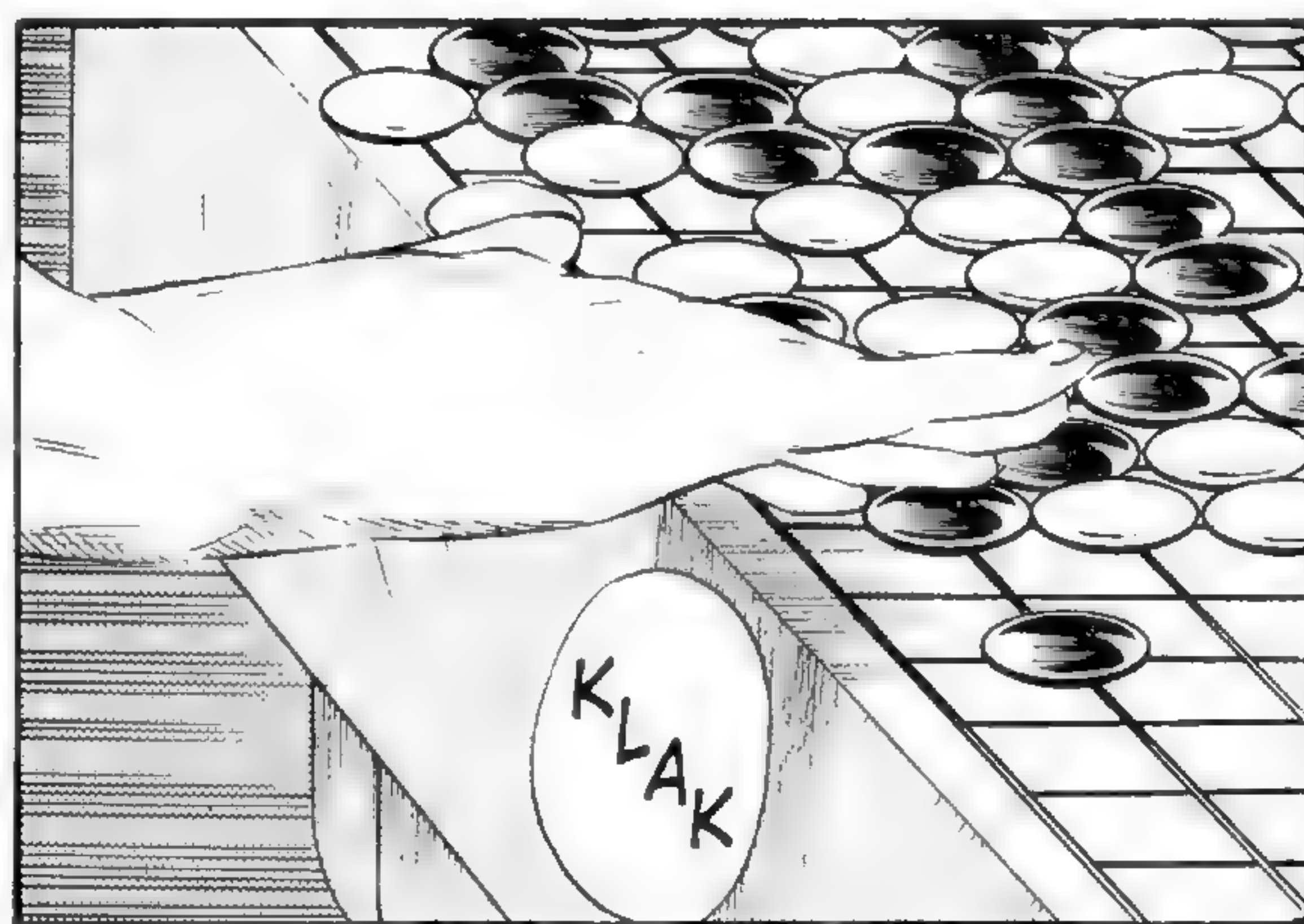
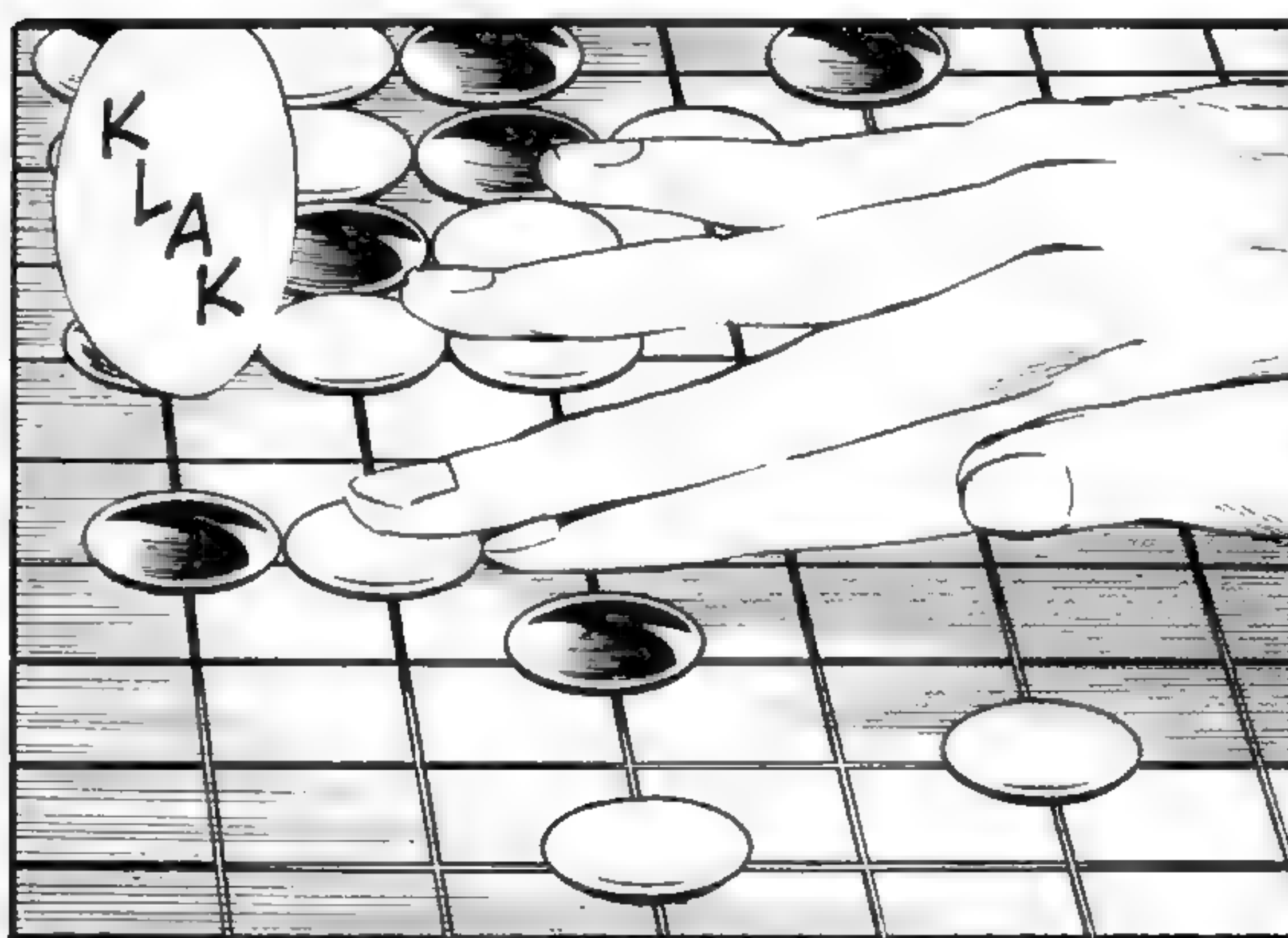


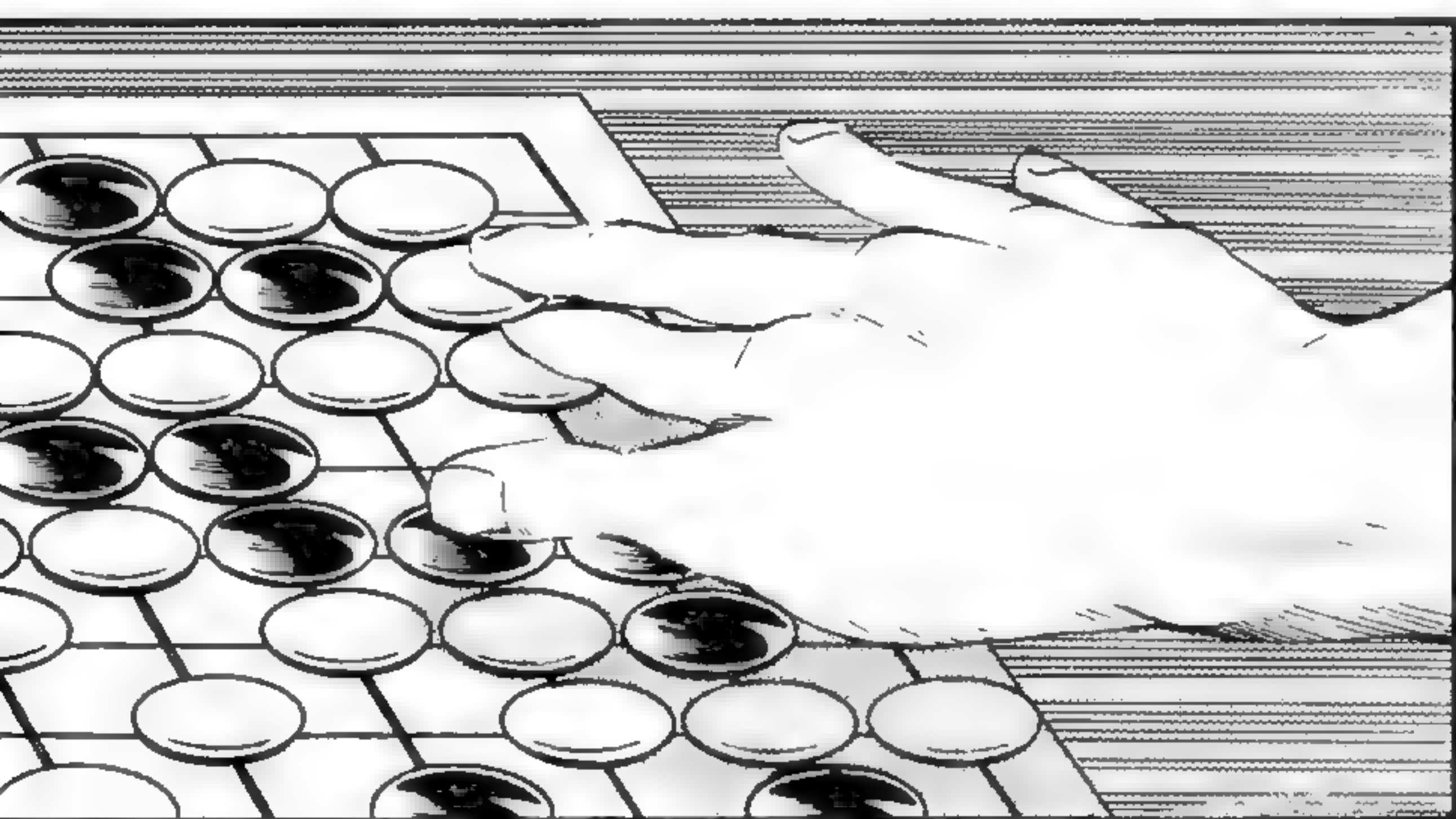
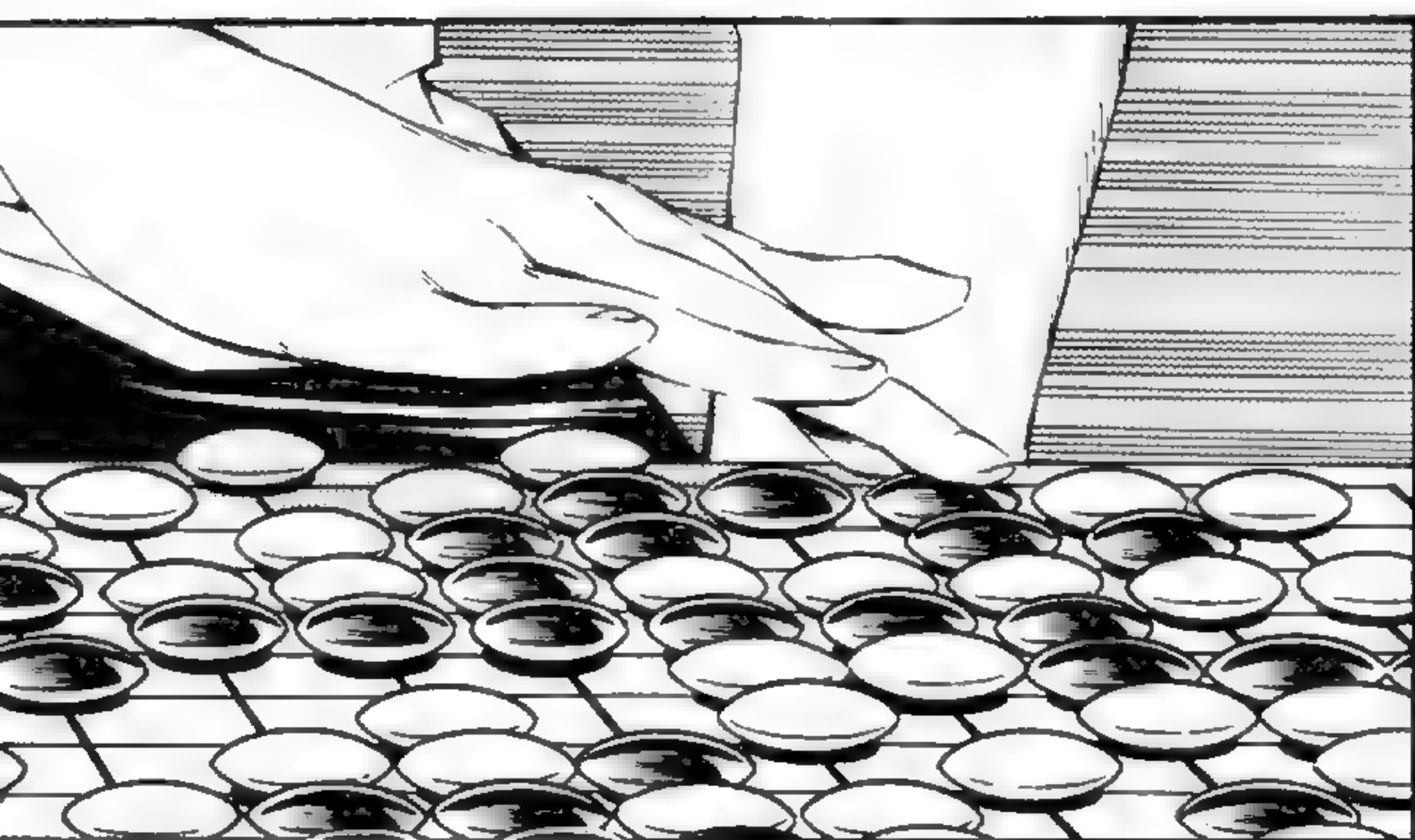
I'M RIGHT
HERE!

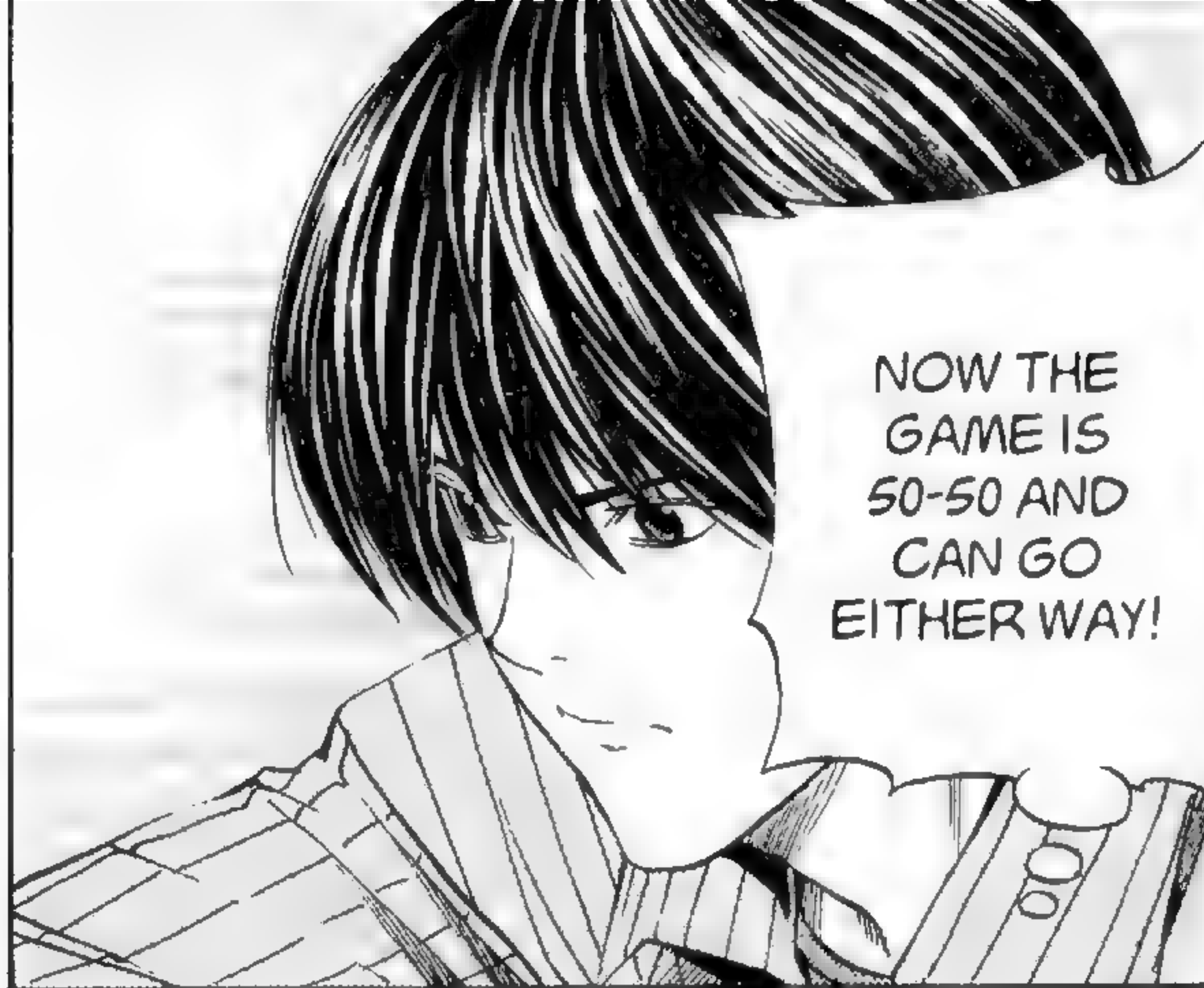


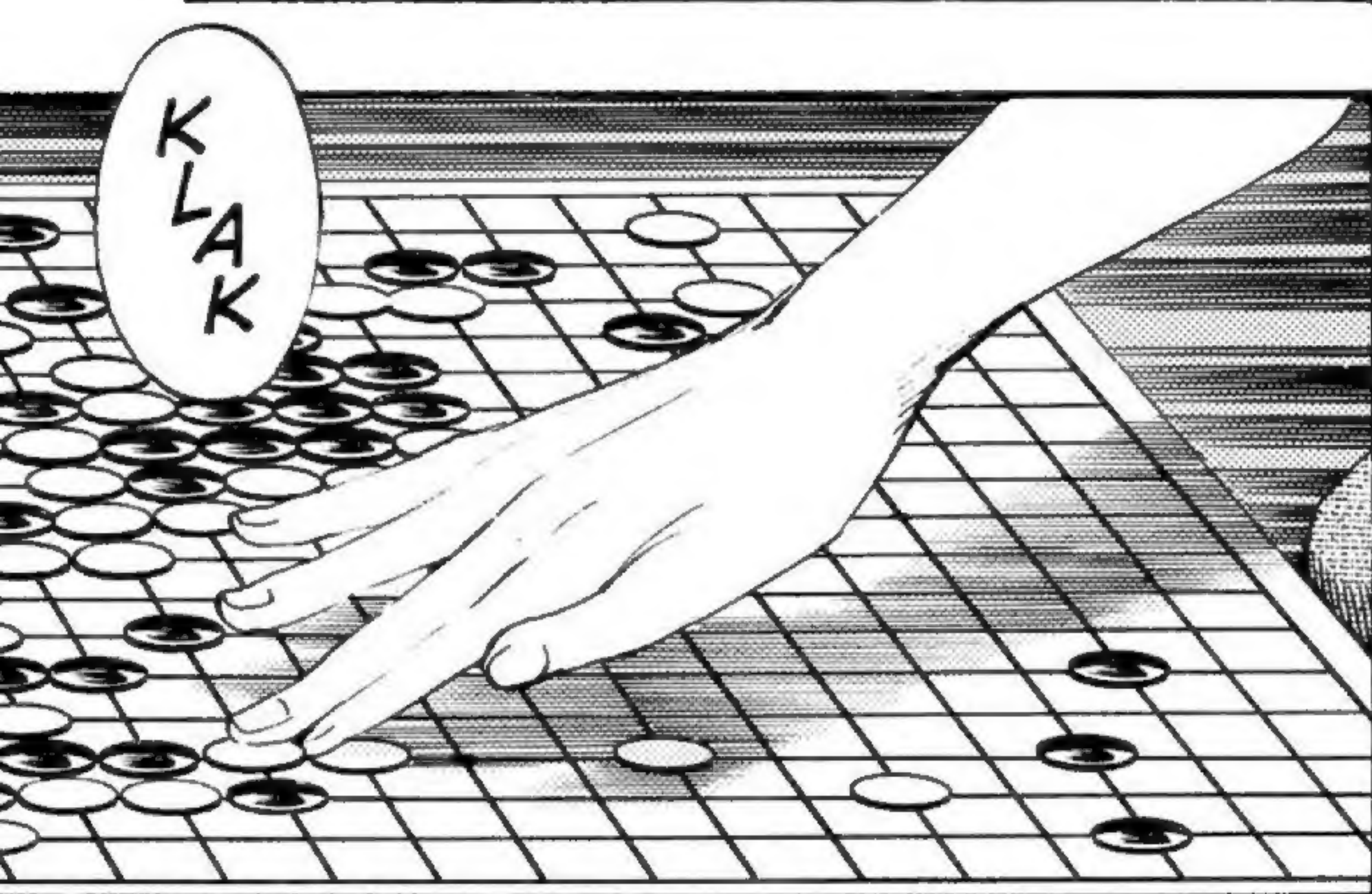
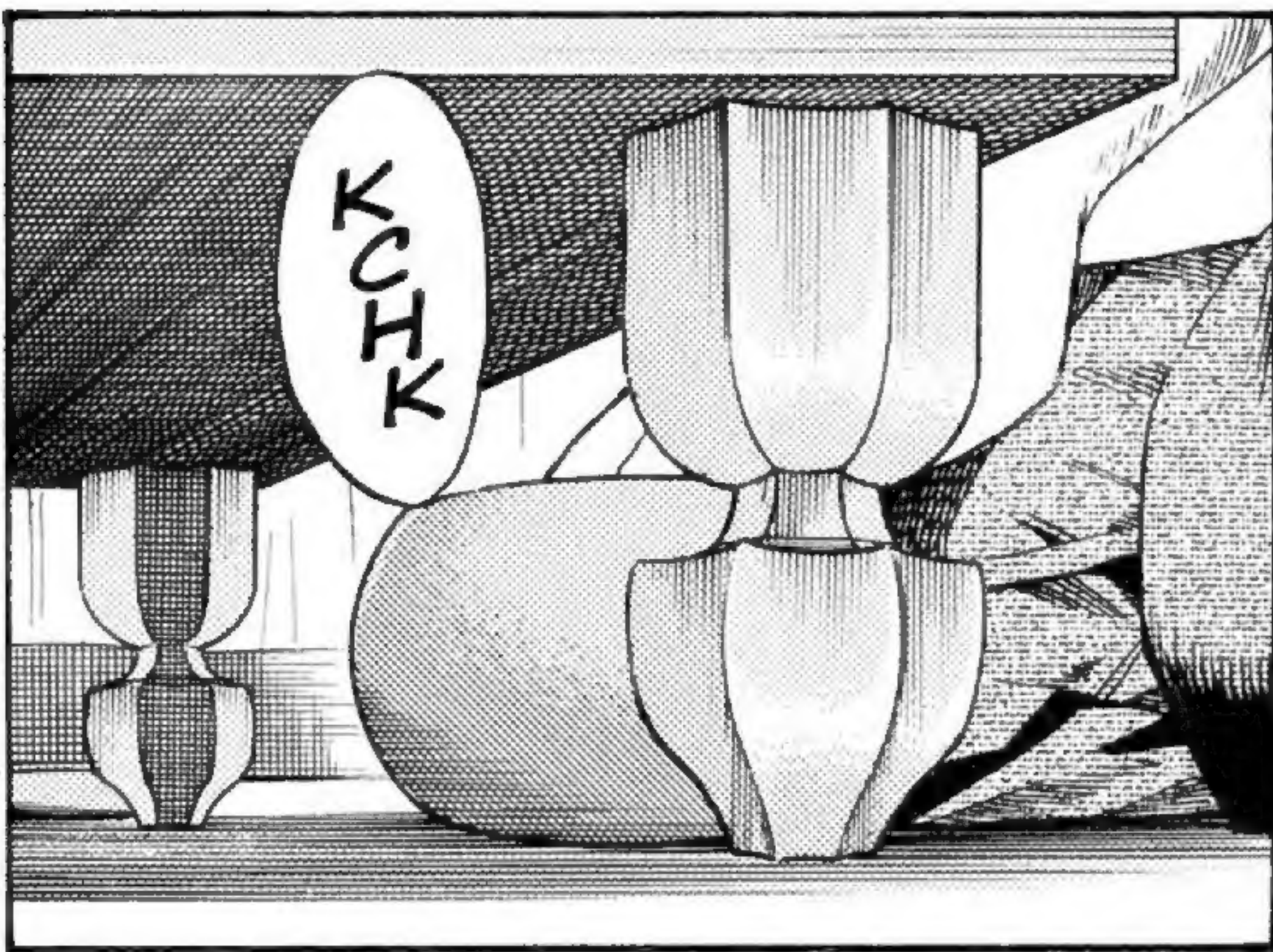




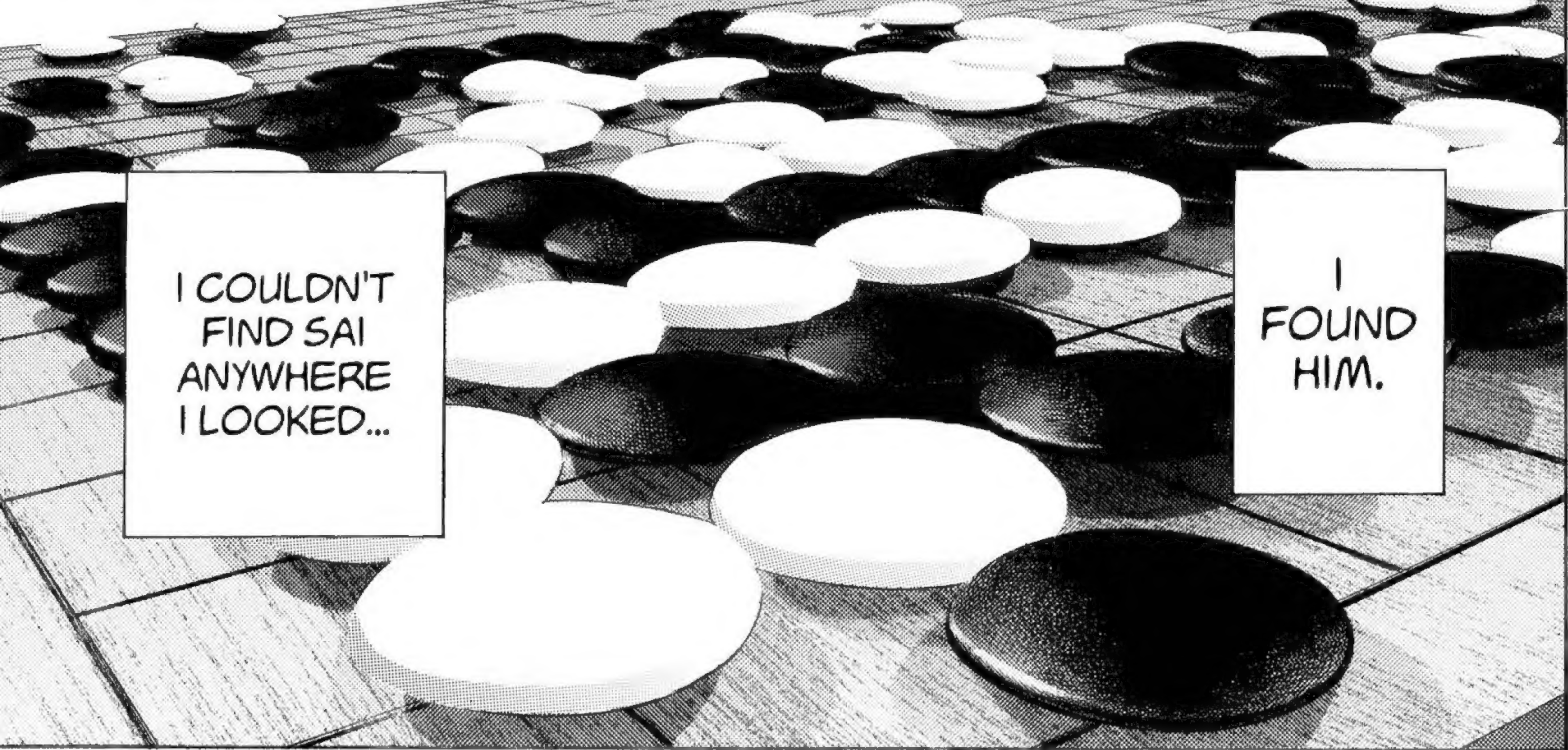












I COULDN'T
FIND SAI
ANYWHERE
I LOOKED...

I
FOUND
HIM.



...AND
NOW I'VE
FOUND
HIM
HERE.

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